

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 13, 2016

Mid edition No 738

REMEMBRANCE

LEST WE FORGET

Paying tribute this weekend to the fallen of past and present conflicts

DEVELOPMENT

Garden town gets Whitehall support

Major scheme could see 12,000 new homes

POLICE

PCC on life following Ann Barnes

Matthew Scott on first six months as commissioner



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Remember the fallen and what they fought for

THERE is a certain irony that in the same week the 'poppy police' were going into overdrive about footballers wearing the traditional symbol of remembrance (is the actual display of a poppy on a football kit while they are watched by a crowd festooned in thousands of the things, really worth such fury?), we also saw the election of a man for whom lessons of the past seem irrelevant.

For those who paid the ultimate price for our nation - in whatever conflict - they did so in pursuit not of a love of war, but a passion for peace. They died, not in vain, but in order to allow nations to usher in organisations and strategies to not only ensure global conflicts could never occur again, but to nip in the bud any nation or leader with an ambition to broaden their borders through force. Our long, relative, peace - delivered by those brave souls - can make us forget this.

Yet Donald



Editor **Chris Britcher**

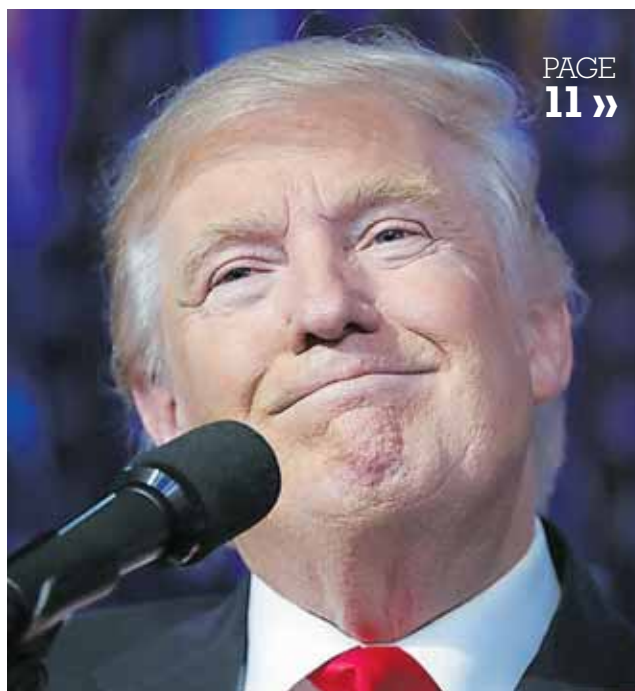
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Trump was a man elected on a ticket which included a host of conditions for the US' continued role within Nato - an organisation created off the back of past fighting in order to ensure any future aggression could be repelled swiftly and effectively. His words have been inflammatory and divisive against nations and religions. In short, after the eloquence of Barack Obama, and he was always calm and considered whatever you may think of him, there is a bombast about Trump which concerns people.

The reality, of course, is that his administration is unlikely to be delivered with quite the drama of his campaign.

After all, if there is one thing we have learned this year, it is surely that to win an election, you no longer need to be accurate or truthful in your claims, or indeed have a clear route forward.

You simply need to shout the loudest.



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HOW TO CONTACT US...

Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
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Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
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Garden town and 12,000 homes edges ever closer

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL plans to create a garden town and build up to 12,000 homes in Shepway have been given the green light by the government's housing minister.

Shepway District Council submitted an official 'expression of interest' to government after a meeting of councillors in July, much to the dismay of campaigners, who staged a sit-in protest in the council chamber just weeks before.

Opposition groups also organised a march against the development, earmarked for Otterpool, near Folkestone Racecourse, and wrote to then-communities and local government secretary – and Tunbridge Wells MP – Greg Clark warning the government "you will have a real fight on your hands".

They argue a development on such a scale would blight an area of outstanding natural beauty and its surrounding landscape.

However, Conservative council leader David Monk insists the project, expected to last for at least 30 years, will be of benefit to the district and minister Gavin Barwell has thrown his weight behind the plans, also



READY: MP Damian Collins, Dover council leader David Monk and housing minister Gavin Barwell

pledging capacity funding of £750,000 to the scheme.

Cllr Monk said: "This means we will be able to pursue our ambitions to create a new community where our children and their children can live, work and play.

"I have already met with many people, businesses and local parishes to discuss our ideas but nothing is set in stone yet. We do know that over the next 30 years we will need more homes and jobs for our children and grandchildren. Many in my genera-

tion have done well for themselves.

"I feel a deep obligation to make sure that we do not deny future generations the same opportunities that we had."

Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins, who met with Cllr Monk and Mr Barwell this week, has described they plans as "a game changer for jobs, new homes, and local businesses" and previously insisted the council has promised at least 30 per cent of the land identified for the project would be kept as green space.

The council is launching a consultation next month into the project's architecture, infrastructure and sustainability, as well as landscape, public realm and transport.

In working with district residents, the council aims to develop a masterplan for Otterpool Park to ultimately submit a planning application.

Cathedral wins appeal over £21,500 payout for OAP's fall in precincts

THE governing body of Rochester Cathedral has won its appeal against a £21,597 payout to a pensioner who tripped while walking through the precincts of the ancient building.

Retired engineer Leonard Debell, 78, and his wife were on their way to meet friends for lunch in June 2010 when he fell over a small lump of concrete protruding from the base of a traffic bollard which had been hit by a car.

Mr Debell, who suffered a hernia and an injured shoulder, sued the Dean and Chapter of England's second oldest cathedral – founded in 604 AD – and was awarded the compensation at Lewes County Court in April last year.

The damages were reduced by 20 per cent to reflect Mr Debell's contributory negligence in not taking sufficient care to see where he was walking.

On Wednesday, two judges in London allowed the cathedral's appeal against the ruling that

it was to blame.

Lord Justice Elias, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lady Justice Hallett, said: "This was a most unfortunate accident but not one for which the cathedral should be liable."

He said they accepted the argument that the county court did not apply the foreseeability test in the appropriate way.

The question for the judge was whether the piece of concrete created a danger of a kind which the cathedral authorities were required to address.

Lord Justice Elias added: "This was an extremely small piece of concrete which could not be said to pose a real danger to pedestrians. It would be very unlikely that a pedestrian would walk so close to the bollard, even approaching it at an angle, or that he would injure himself if he did.

"Accordingly, even if, contrary to my view, the judge did apply the right test, then in my judgment his conclusion was not open to him."

Fans remember show blow after Leonard Cohen death

LEONARD Cohen had been due to perform two major outdoor shows in Kent on what proved to be one of his final UK tours.

Fans have been mourning the death of the singer, songwriter and poet, after he died peacefully at his home in Los Angeles. He was 82.

For many fans in the county, it will remind them of the disappointment of when he announced two

major shows at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm in September 2012, only to have them cancelled and shifted instead to Wembley Arena just weeks before the show was to have taken place.

It is thought they were connected to the financial collapse of the firm behind the then Hop Farm Festival, held at the venue earlier in the year.

One date had already sold out.

Tram driver bailed as probe into fatal crash continues

A 42-year-old, who was behind the controls of a tram that crashed in Croydon killing seven people, has been released on bail after being arrested on suspicion of manslaughter.

The man, from Beckenham, was arrested following the tragedy on Wednesday.

Investigators said the tram was travelling at a "significantly higher speed than is permitted" and are

probing whether the driver had fallen asleep or collapsed.

More than 50 people were injured when the vehicle left the track during the morning rush hour.

British Transport Police said a claim last week a tram "lifted onto one side at 40mph" near the same location as the crash "will now form one of our lines of inquiry".



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Bowl bosses unveil 'earth lodges' tourism push

OWNERS of the Bowl Water site in Lamberhurst have revealed plans to build 60 'earth lodges' to provide self-catering accommodation.

The two-bedroom earth lodges would be cut into a slope, covered by earth banks and sheltered beneath a wild meadow roof at the 800-acre Bowl Water Country Park, which surrounds the reservoir.

The low-energy units could accommodate up to 240 people in total and would use existing car parking.

Andrew Daniels, chief operating officer at Bowl Water, said: "The earth lodges are an integral part of our long-term strategy to ensure the country park can operate as an all year round destination for outdoor pursuits."



STAR: Strictly's Ola Jordan

County duo in I'm A Celebrity debut tonight

POPULAR reality TV show I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! returns to our screens tonight (Sunday), with Kent Strictly Come Dancing star Ola Jordan and Olympic hockey hero Sam Quek on the list.

The dancer, 34, who lives in Kings Hill, is the wife of fellow dancer and former Celebrity Big Brother contestant James Jordan - himself no stranger to reality TV having come third in a previous outing of Celebrity Big Brother.

Sam Quek, 28, was part of the Great Britain gold medal-winning team in Rio and is a regular for Rochester-based hockey side Holcombe. She says she hopes her appearance will prove "that I am not a hard, emotionless athlete. I do have emotions".

They join a line-up which includes the likes of actor Larry Lamb, presenter Carol Vorderman, footballer Wayne Bridge, model and presenter Lisa Snowdon and Googlebox star Scarlett Moffatt.

Ukip leader Nigel Farage, from Westerham, had been tipped to appear in the show but apparently turned down an offer of up to £1 million to take part. A spokesman said he turned down the chance "because he's not a bloody idiot".

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! returns at 9pm this Sunday on ITV1.

Cops appear to rule out Bellfield link to brutal Russell murders in 1996

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A POLICE probe linking serial killer Levi Bellfield with a host of other crimes has ended - seemingly ruling out any possible link with him and the deaths in 1996 of Lin and Megan Russell.

The mother and daughter were bludgeoned to death as they walked across fields to their home in the picturesque village of Chillenden outside Canterbury. Josie Russell, nine, was left for dead in the attack which also saw the pet dog killed.

Michael Stone, from Gillingham, has been convicted of the crime and is serving three life sentences in jail. However, he has always protested his innocence, and a lack of DNA evidence linking him to the attacks has meant doubts remain over his conviction. Levi Bellfield resembled an original photofit issued following the crime, prompting wide speculation he could be involved.

Bellfield is serving a whole-life tar-



KILLER: Levi Bellfield

iff after being found guilty of abducting and killing 13-year-old Milly Dowler following a trial at the Old Bailey. He was jailed in 2011.

He was already in jail for the murders of Amelie Delagrang and Mar-

sha McDonnell, and the attempted murder of Kate Sheedy, when he went on trial accused of killing Milly.

At the time of his conviction in June 2011, detectives said they believed Bellfield may have been responsible for around 20 attacks on women which were never solved.

The Metropolitan Police has been co-ordinating the national response, across 10 police forces, which is thought to have included Kent.

A spokesman said: "It has taken a considerable amount of time and police resources to conduct the investigation. All lines of enquiry have now been exhausted and the decision has been taken to close this investigation as there is no evidence to link the individual to any case for which he has not already been convicted."

Kent Police refused to elaborate when contacted.

Stone's sister Barbara, who continues to campaign for him, had recently told KoS: "I know my brother didn't do it, but I am not sure Bellfield did it either."

Anne Frank's sister makes final speech

THE 89-year-old sister of Anne Frank - the young Jewish victim of the Holocaust who found global fame posthumously for her diary charting her time in hiding from the Nazis - has made her final ever public speech at a prison in Kent.

Half-sister and survivor of the genocide, Eva Schloss, 89, spoke at HMP East Sutton Park in an event organised by the Anne Frank Trust and Novus, an education and training organisation which works with offenders and ex-offenders.

Mrs Schloss' visit was part of a week-long exhibition run by the Anne Frank Trust, to learn about the historical events of the Second World War, the concentration camps, and Anne Frank and her family.

Anne Frank's father, Otto, survived and later married Mrs Schloss' mother. Both families were in the death camps and both lost parents, brothers, sisters and extended family.

Ruth Eagles, of Novus, said: "Eva is an inspiration to all of us."

Blaze destroys animal enclosure at park

A FIRE has destroyed an animal enclosure at one of the county's leading animal parks.

Firefighters were called to Port Lympne Reserve near Hythe last Saturday to reports of a blaze in a small, heated, wooden shed used to house Visayan Warty Pigs - originally from the Philippines.

The pigs' shelter was completely destroyed. The pigs were not inside at the time and none were harmed.

Fire investigators denied a stray firework sparked the fire, with an electrical fault thought to be to blame.

Staff at the park moved the pigs into another section of their paddock while crews extinguished the flames. They have subsequently been monitoring the animals for any sign of ill health.

Keepers built a temporary shelter for the pigs with the animals this week kept in a separate paddock and shelter while work continues to rebuild their regular home.

There were no reports of anyone else being injured during the drama.

Fresh hunt for clues over missing woman

SPECIALIST police dogs have been called in as part of a renewed investigation into a woman reported missing almost 20 years ago from Pembury Hospital.

Margaret Costen was last seen on February 23, 1997. She was an inpatient and was reported missing after it was believed she had left the grounds and wandered into nearby woodland.

Despite searching, the 54-year-old was not found.

Inspector Ray Quiller said: "It's been a long time since Margaret was reported missing and these searches will be about trying to find any evidence or clues to help us understand what happened to her. We periodically review files around missing people and this has led us to believe that by using modern search techniques and expertise we have an opportunity to survey areas she may have walked through with more accuracy than ever before."

Officers are also continuing efforts to trace any possible surviving relatives of Margaret and any family or friends are asked to get in touch. If you can help, call officers on 01622 604100.

Barracks closure is 'dramatic and worrying' says town's MP

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

MP HELEN Grant has slammed the government's decision, announced this week, to close Invicta Park Barracks in Maidstone.

It comes as part of the latest sell-off of Ministry of Defence sites in a major reorganisation of military installations and bases across the UK.

Earlier this year, it was also confirmed Folkestone's Burgoyne Barracks will shut in 2019.

The Maidstone and the Weald Conservative MP said: "This is a dramatic and worrying announcement for the 800 soldiers, their families and dependents, many of whom are from the hugely respected local Nepalese community. It will also impact on the wider population and economy of Maidstone generally.

"The emotion of the situation is exacerbated because the MoD have not yet determined where people stationed at the base are to be relocated. This failing will create worry, stress and unhappiness whilst also affecting regimental morale and the retention of good and highly trained personnel.

"I understand the closure is not scheduled until 2027 and that the official rationale is to 'provide greater stability through co-location



DECISION: Michael Fallon made the announcement in the House of Commons

of regimental personnel and their families.

"There has been a military presence in the county town for centuries and I am certainly not persuaded that this is a sound proposal."

She says she will be seeking answers from senior MoD officials. The land is expected to be eventually used for housing or commercial purposes.

On Monday, Sevenoaks MP and defence minister Michael Fallon revealed a further 56 more sites, nationally, would be disposed of by 2040, taking the total number of bases

and facilities being sold off to 91. Canterbury Barracks has already shut as part of the process.

The MoD estate currently covers nearly two per cent of the UK's land area.

Sir Michael told MPs it costs £2.5 billion a year to maintain the overall estate, and 40 per cent of the MoD's built assets are more than 50 years old.

It is hoped selling the sites could save £140 million of running costs over the next decade.

Shopping complex all set to be rebranded

POPULAR Dover shopping complex De Bradelei Wharf is set for a rebrand, just weeks after its remarkable return from the dead.

The site closed suddenly on October 4, but re-opened after new lease holder JB Armstrong and the Port of Dover intervened.

Now the new owners are planning to rebrand the business and will be launching a competition for locals to get involved in the new identity.

Netflix's The Crown films at dockyard

NETFLIX's £100m TV series The Crown, which debuted this month, shot scenes at Chatham's Historic Dockyard.

The 10-part series, streamed exclusively via the online service, follows the early reign of the Queen and is one of the most expensive series ever produced.

College signs deal

A STRATEGIC partnership agreement has been signed between Thanet District Council and East Kent College in a move to develop a skills agenda appropriate for the local area.

It will see both partners working to promote further education, training opportunities, apprenticeships, higher education, professional development and community learning.

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Facebook legal threat over Littergram app is dropped

A BUSINESSMAN from Tonbridge has confirmed a legal threat from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been dropped.

Popular social media app Instagram, which is also owned by Mr Zuckerberg, demanded Danny Lucas change the name of his innovative mobile app, Littergram, which invites people to share pictures of rubbish and report the location to their local authority, back in April this year.

Facebook said it thought the motivation behind the app was admirable, but being a photo-sharing app which operates in a similar way to Instagram, it asked Mr Lucas to change the name to avoid infringing its trademark, given it is likely to dilute Instagram's "uniqueness and value".



As a result, Mr Lucas sent a video to Mr Zuckerberg pleading with him not to enforce the name change, insisting it would "kill our momentum and put us back to square one". In July, a spokesperson close to

the row told KoS the threat was being dropped and Mr Lucas has this week confirmed the news.

He said: "We applaud Facebook for taking this admirable approach."

Is this set to spell the end for traditional hotel keys?

THE humble hotel key could be set to become a thing of the past and be replaced by smart-phones, after pioneering new technology from a Medway-based firm.

It means guests will simply open up an app on their phone and press a button to send the security clearance to access rooms using Bluetooth.

When they are due to check out, the hotel can automatically deactivate the locking system saving the headache of trying to remind guests to return their keys before departure.

The technology has already been trialled with both Hilton and Village who are due to roll out the system across the country.

Andy Purvis, from Sandling, boss of Rochester-based firm NT Security who is implement-

ing what it has dubbed 'S2R - Straight to Room' technology said: "This simple system heralds the death of the hotel room key - the fantastic thing about Bluetooth is that every phone nowadays has it."

"In the past, guests hated the bulky room keys which they had to remember to return to reception before going home."

"Hotels hated having to constantly pay to replace keys that had gone missing. Then the credit-card-style keys were equally unpopular with guests because they were easy to lose and would often stop working if they rubbed up against mobile phones. Now, guests are able to unlock their doors via their mobile phones that is, if anything, even more secure than the traditional hotel keys."

Commemoration seats

FOUR specially commissioned benches have been installed in Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Faversham to commemorate those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice through conflict and as part of Swale Borough Council's First World One centenary commemorations.

Scally denies heart scare

GILLINGHAM Football Club chairman Paul Scally was forced to deny bizarre rumours he had been rushed to hospital for heart surgery on Friday.

It followed a tweet by David Gold, chair of West Ham. The Gills said Mr Scally was "fit and well" and it was a "misunderstanding".

Bake Off's big bow out

PAUL Hollywood's final appearance in the BBC version of the Great British Bake Off pulled in the biggest TV programme since the London Olympics in 2012.

The Wingham baker was watched by 15.9 million viewers as the show bid farewell to the corporation after signing with Channel 4.

Label spins into life

A RECORD label based in the county and with a host of its artists hailing from Kent too, launched this week.

Roulette Records, which is based in Deal showcased its launch with a special event at Camden's Underworld venue on Thursday night.

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Top Three Stories



1. Cop death verdict due

Jury deciding in Gordon Semple case

2. Jail for party stabbing

Court hands out 19-year sentence

3. Council sell-off U-turn

Thanet changes land disposal sites

The Essential Guide:



...to next Thames crossing

All you need to know about future route



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Wingham photographer Ady Kerry scooped success at a major black and white photographic competition. We featured two of his striking images online this week to mark his success. His work is frequently seen in Kent On Sunday.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Trump is a triumph

MEP in US for election night excitement

2. Election identifies fears

'A boiling of pot discontent' in the States

3. Text and drive madness

Drivers need to remember their heads

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Would you welcome Farage as Trump's EU envoy?

- 1 Yes - be a dream ticket - 62%
- 2 No - be a nightmare - 32%
- 3 Undecided - 0%
- 4 Farage can dream on - 6%

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WIN: Donald Trump shocked the world with his win... but what will the president-elect do when he takes up office in two months time?.

PICTURE: PA

Welcome to a different America

A leading county academic believes the remarkable victory of Donald Trump follows a mould established by Brexit

By Chris Murphy

editorial@archant.co.uk

DONALD Trump's remarkable success in the US presidential election this week was thanks to a "dog whistle" political message, according to one of the county's leading academics. Dr Matthew Jones, from Herne Bay, is a lecturer in political science at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus.

He says the businessman and former reality TV star struck a chord with many in the US, despite the widespread ridicule of the media.

"Donald Trump had successfully tapped into a seam of anger in American society," Dr Jones explained to KoS this week. "Many Americans – perhaps more than we thought – have reacted positively to Trump's message of making America great again."

"It did not matter how poorly he performed in the debates, the sex scandals, or political gaffes, it was his simple 'dog-whistle' political message that stuck in the minds of many people. Indeed, perhaps his lack of political polish and nuance made him more attractive as a political Washington outsider."

For many in the UK, already reeling under the shock Brexit result, the victory for Mr Trump was seen as another powerful lurch to the right of world politics – another country's often overlooked working class rebelling against the globalisation which has seen markets flooded with cheap

imports, putting traditional home industries to the sword and leaving whole communities out of work and struggling to cope with a very different industrial landscape.

"What does this tell us about American politics and society?" asks Dr Jones. "This election result suggests a divided America. Trump won the electoral college vote, but the popular vote was very close."

The way the political map is drawn in the US means that it is likely defeated Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton could end up actually polling more individual votes than her rival, but it was the distribution of those votes that proved her undoing.

The electoral college system equates a number of 'electors' determined by the population size of each state. Whoever polls the most in each state then secures the votes of all 'electors'. Thus the importance of clinching the likes of swing states such as Florida, which carries 29 electors, is clear when compared with the likes of sparsely populated states such as Montana which carries just three. Even if a candidate wins by just one vote, they secure all the electors in that state which goes towards the race to secure the 270 needed to receive the keys to the White House.

Explains Dr Jones: "America is not only split along Republican and Democratic party affiliation, but it is also split along racial lines, and socio-economic lines, between those who have felt the benefits of globalisation, and those who have been left behind. In

COULD FARAGE BE HIS EU ENVOY?

UKIP's interim leader Nigel Farage described Donald Trump's victory as a "supersized Brexit".

The Westerham MEP, who took Ukip from the fringes to a major political force in the country, before playing a key role in the delivery of the 'leave' victory in the EU referendum in June, is perhaps the archetype of this new breed of politicians which rebels against the establishment and thus hits a chord with voters, who have grown disillusioned with modern politics.

He is no stranger to the president elect. He appeared on stage with Mr Trump during an election rally, with Mr Trump holding up Brexit as an example of how there

is a new wave of politics emerging, and has been an outspoken supporter of several of Mr Trump's campaign pledges.

Speaking after Mr Trump crossed the line to secure his place in history, Mr Farage said: "The nation state is back, 2016 is the year that people voted for change and to take back control of their lives."

"His victory is like a supersized Brexit."

"Congratulations to Donald Trump, I look forward to working with him for liberty and a more



prosperous future."

However, he played down reports that he could get a role within the Trump administration after he steps down.

Prior to the election result, Mr Farage had said: "Is he going to offer me a job? I'm hoping he might do."

"He will be in need of a

proper eurosceptic ambassador in Brussels for the European Union. I would rather like that job."

However, he has subsequently said any suggestion he would get such a role was "premature".

this context, strong parallels can be drawn between this election result and the recent Brexit referendum result in the UK."

Hillary Clinton had been the pollsters favourite to triumph right up until the polls closed. But the tidal wave of support for Mr Trump proved simply too much.

"Where did it go wrong for Hillary?" asks Dr Jones. "There are a couple of possible causes here. First, with hindsight, much of the polling appears to have been very inaccurate. This may be down to methodological problems, which we also saw in the last UK national election. What these polls may have also failed to take into account were the 'silent Trump supporters' – those who were pro-Trump, but where perhaps too embarrassed to admit to when being polled."

"This election outcome can also be interpreted as a push back against the 'establishment' of American politics. By beating Jeb Bush in the primaries, and now Clinton in the presidential election, Trump has effectively ended two political dynasties."

"What does this mean for the future of American politics? It certainly suggests a shift in direction. America has gone from electing its first African-American president, a man who still has high approval ratings, to electing a man who has the open support of the Ku Klux Klan. Given Trump's incendiary comments on both Muslims and Mexicans, the already delicate issue of race relations may become more fragile."

"Once president Trump is inaugurated [in January], what will he achieve in his first 100 days? Will he

soften his stance of Muslim and Mexican immigration? Will the wall be built, and paid for by Mexico? Will he introduce the 40 per cent tariff on overseas goods as promised? If he does not stick to many of the populist policies that gained him support, how will his most ardent supported react?

"Finally, what impact will this result have for the UK, and Kent specifically? Depending on how the market react, it may slow the UK economic recovery. If Trump does go ahead with tariff reforms, it makes it more expensive for UK made goods to enter the US. On the plus side, Trump may be more favourable for a post-Brexit trade negotiation."

This weekend, however, the world will continue to grapple with perhaps the single biggest peacetime political outcome in modern history.



FUTURE: Is this the future vision of the centre of Southborough - one which would see the demolition of a theatre built in 1900 but now sat, unused, in a state of disrepair

Opponents rally against community hub plans

Given approval this week, **Tom Pyman** reports on the controversial scheme for Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells

CAMPAIGNERS against the proposed development of a "hideous" community hub in Southborough insist their fight is not over after a committee gave plans the green light this week.

At a Tunbridge Wells Borough Council meeting on Wednesday, the planning committee approved the Southborough Hub scheme, which would encompass a new theatre, library, cafe, retail units, medical centre, sports pavilion, offices and up to 69 housing units.

And work could begin in as little as six months according to Kent county councillor Peter Oakford, who lives in the town and has been leading the project for more than a decade.

The plans have proved controversial with residents opposed to the planned demolition of the historic Royal Victoria Hall theatre, built in 1900, and the removal of green spaces, which sparked Sport England, a non-departmental public body which drives community sport, into lodging

an objection to the proposals.

More than 1,200 people signed a petition against the scheme which appears to have divided factions of the town.

Martin Betts, of the Southborough Environmental Action Movement campaign group, told KoS: "There has been a clear demonstration of opposition in Southborough that has been completely ignored.

"Royal Victoria Hall been a cultural focal point for decades in the town and has a huge amount of public affection.

"On that basis it should be allowed, like so many historical buildings around Kent, to be refurbished, modernised and put into the centre of a new development.

"The plans also eat up quite a lot of green spaces and playing fields in the centre of the town and we object to that being taken away - they are being pushed forward without consideration of our views.

"An assessment was done some years ago on recreational green spaces

and it found Southborough had insufficient green space for a town of its size.

"It's gradually been chipped away and this would take away another significant amount.

"It causes persistent anger among residents, a frustration with elective representatives and creates a schism in the town which no one wants.

"People in positions of leadership should be carrying it forward with public support but by not listening to people they have hindered themselves and made it more difficult to carry it."

Cllr Oakford insisted there were a number of issues with the hall, including insurance complications after a child caught a finger in one of the seats, that meant it was no longer financially viable to maintain in its current state.

He claimed the new theatre would include state-of-the-art equipment and a flexible hall and open space that could be used by the community for everything from weddings to live concerts.

"Unfortunately over the years it has been altered by various groups," he told KoS.

"The gorgeous architecture on the front made of raw iron was ripped away in the 1970s and it's been in a state for a number of years meaning

the council has been having to go into its reserves to keep it.

"To modernise the theatre, by law we'd need to completely bring it up to modern standards and that means everything but its four walls would have to be stripped down, costing a lot more money than knocking it down, so the easiest thing was to give the town a brand new theatre."

The Conservative, who is also KCC's cabinet member for specialist children's services, said the proposal would in fact increase the provision of football pitches on the site - something he claims Sport England was unaware of when submitting its objection - and that the director of the local football club even offered his support to the plans.

"We are talking about five per cent of the overall playing fields," he added.

"We have worked to level off the entire field which means we actually get two more pitches than we currently have and the club is going to gain a state-of-the-art pavilion.

"At the moment they are using facilities in derelict school buildings.

"There is going to be a library and a medical centre which can provide x-rays and operations.

"This project is putting a heart into the centre of Southborough for all members of the community to use."

Another point of frustration for campaigners is the look of the planned hub, considered by many in the town to be an eyesore.

Mr Betts added: "This is a bog-standard type of building that architects are used to providing all around the country.

"It's been described as an 'iconic' design but to many people it's like a supermarket or a terminal at an airport - it's not fit for a town with our architectural landscape.

"We have a fine mix of old and attractive buildings and this will just be plonked down in the middle, sandwiched between a conservation area and the Royal Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

"For people driving in it will be a tacky Blackpool-style advertisement.

"It's just hideous - I don't think anyone has said they like the look of the building, there is no respect for the local environment.

"We fear for other towns across Kent if this becomes the standard design for community buildings in the county."

Architects, Pick Everard were approached for a response but declined to comment.

A council report presented to the committee indicated, as a result of the Sport England objection, planning permission cannot be granted until the application has been referred to the National Planning Case-work Unit.

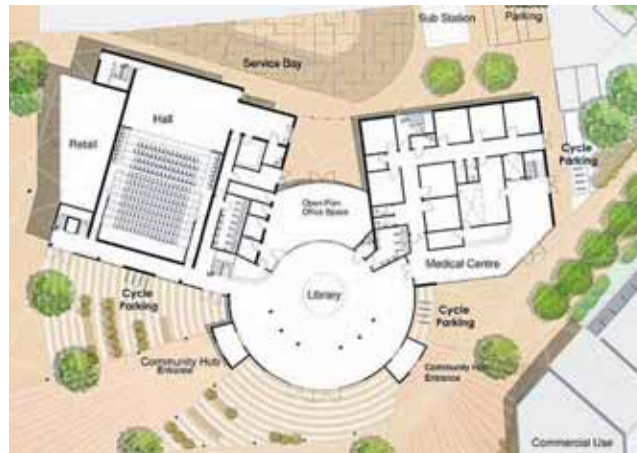
However, Cllr Oakford told us he anticipated minimal red tape and that work would be underway imminently.

"We have approval to move forward and we are planning the next steps.

"The Southborough Town Council offices will need to be relocated and then the site needs to be cleared, which includes the demolition of Royal Victoria Hall.

"The next thing will be making the land for sale and I hope work on the development can really get going within six months."

A Sport England spokesperson said its objection will now be referred to communities and local government secretary Sajid Javid but declined to make further comment.



PLANS: View from above of the development in Southborough

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B 6 P C reflects on six months in post

Following in the footsteps of Ann Barnes was going to be both blessing and curse, so just how is Kent's PCC getting on? **Tom Pyman** finds out...

MATTHEW Scott says he believes the profile of the police and crime commissioner is on an upward curve as he celebrates six months in the job this weekend.

A former office manager for Bexleyheath and Crayford MP David Evennett, the Conservative Mr Scott beat off competition from the likes of Ukip's Henry Bolton and Tristan Osborne of Labour to land the £85,000-a-year role in May.

While turnout was higher than it was four years ago when the independent Ann Barnes swept to power, it still remained despairingly low at just 21.5 per cent.

Indeed, when KoS took to the streets prior to the election, fewer than one in ten people surveyed could name a candidate standing for election, suggesting general apathy, or if nothing else a lack of understanding of the role, remained.

Mrs Barnes did make headlines during her tenure, although largely for the wrong reasons due to a series of PR gaffes that overshadowed a lot of her work.

There has been no such whirlwind with Mr Scott after half a year in office, keeping a rela-

tively low profile, though he insists there is a growing engagement and warmth towards the position across the county.

"It's been a really rewarding six months and I hope it continues that way," he told KoS.

"A lot of it has met expectations but you can never be prepared for everything so I have learned a few things on the job about what people think and what they want you to do.

"Because I've taken the attitude of being out and about rather than sitting behind a desk, I'm spending a lot of time in the car or on public transport getting around the county, so it's trying to find that balance between doing my best to go and see things and managing my time effectively.

"But I think the profile is improving, I've taken the approach of just getting on with the job, basically.

"I was very keen to make sure this was about the role rather than the individual and make sure I discharged all my responsibilities appropriately.

"There's been a lot of goodwill shown where I have been going out and meeting people and it's really encouraging to see so many people who want to engage with the office.

"I took the view that the past is the past.



SHOT: Matthew Scott invested cash to clear backlog of gun licence applications



NOW: Matthew Scott, above, says it's a case of 'so far, so good', although the role remains synonymous with Ann Barnes, right



Ann was elected, she served her time and decided to stand down after her term and that we would have somebody new.

"When I took office on May 12, it was about the role of the PCC going forward, rather than what had happened before.

"Obviously lessons have been learned, not just here but across the

country, where we've had PCCs of differing backgrounds and standards so I think it's important to look to the future."

Despite his insistence, however, it's difficult to shake the feeling that, generally, people have still not fully embraced the position of a PCC with familiarity and enthusiasm.

When KoS attended Mr Scott's first public governance meeting with the

chief constable back in August, there were significantly more empty seats in the room at Kent Police HQ in Maidstone than there were occupied ones.

"I'd love more people to attend the meetings," said Mr Scott, who lives in Swanley with his wife, Nina.

"The details are always advertised, but I will make sure I do my best to promote them and make them more

available and open.

"I appreciate perhaps afternoons are not the best time for people who might take an interest so I'll be looking next year, once I've reviewed the first period of these meetings, how they've operated, whether they feel they've been of benefit and the information and scrutiny has been effective, to develop that alongside the new police and crime plan.

"I have an open mind, I don't want to put up barriers to scrutiny, but rather than a 'public meeting', it is a 'meeting in public', so I hold the chief constable to account on behalf of the public, rather than it being a more engaged meeting.

"But I make myself accessible by going around the county so they can challenge me, in the mornings, afternoons, evenings and at weekends to

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have also raised a few eyebrows. Yet the commissioner insists challenging the more senior chief constable, Alan Pughsley, has in no way proved an obstacle, and is using his youth to his advantage.

He said: "It's only come up when people have said it's great to have someone younger coming into the role; it's played no part in the way in which the force has dealt with me.

"I have a good working relationship with the chief constable but also the appropriate level of challenge as well.

"I've been pleasantly surprised it hasn't been an issue, people have been responsive and positive because they respect people come from all backgrounds, ages, races, genders and experience – age and ability are not the same thing.

"The role is more than just policing, the commissioner does not have operational control over policing and I respect that fully.

"It's about setting priorities and having worked as a councillor and in different advocacy roles, I have experience of taking up public comments and suggestions.

"PCCs come from business and the armed forces, not just from policing, so I don't think it's entirely the case you have to have been in the job yourself, though coming from a family of police officers I do have that understanding of the culture and processes."

While Mr Scott appears to have got his head down and remained clear of any real controversy, it has of course been an explosive six months in the world around him.

The Brexit vote and subsequent political overhaul in Westminster has



changed the way the PCC communicates with central government and the Home Office in particular to negotiate the best deals for Kent.

Indeed, pre-election, Mr Scott championed his relationship with then-home secretary Theresa May, who had been accused of not doing enough last summer when Operation Stack ground the county to a halt, as a key benefit to voting in a Conservative candidate.

He has since invited her successor, Amber Rudd, down to the county, and says he is continually working to strengthen our relationship with those in Westminster.

"There are benefits [to Kent being a Conservative county], it does mean we are working very closely on particular campaigns and issues, but at the same time I've been making sure I don't cross that boundary and mix

politics and policing," he said.

"I've met with council leaders of all colours and community groups and party members when asked to do so.

"Irrespective of party backgrounds, I want to do the best for residents during the course of the four years.

"Very early on I got the opportunity to speak to the new home secretary and the new policing minister, Brandon Lewis and I am continuing to make the case on the funding challenges that face Kent which I believe are unique to this area."

Another perhaps more tangible change for Kent is an increase in the number of armed police officers on the county's streets, primarily in locations described as potential terror targets such as Dover docks, Canterbury city centre and Bluewater shopping centre in Greenhithe.

"The decision was taken centrally

that police forces should recruit more because the nature of the threat the county faces has changed," Mr Scott said.

"Marauding attackers as well as threat through explosive devices, means terrorism is changing.

"That was decided before I took office and investment has been made in Kent to recruit more firearms officers and I've met with them to discuss challenges and opportunities.

"Currently the strategy of them being more publicly visible has been positively received, both through my office and the officers themselves and members of the public too.

"Those officers are tasked with making some of the most difficult decisions in policing – discharging a firearm in order to stop somebody and I want to do all I can to give them my backing and I know the public ap-

preciate the job they do."

One of Mr Scott's first acts in office, and perhaps the only to date to ruffle any kind of feathers, was to provide £40,000 of additional funds to clear a backlog of applications for firearms licences, something his predecessor refused to acknowledge.

"What I take issue with is Kent Police money – taxpayers' money – being used to subsidise someone's hobby," Mrs Barnes said.

However, despite suggestions the cash could be better spent elsewhere, Mr Scott has stood by his decision.

"These people are trying to tell us they own a firearm and wish to do it safely," he said.

"They are trying to comply with the quite-rightly strict firearms laws that we have and we should make it as simple and easy as possible to license them.

"I provided extra funding to that department to allow them to clear that backlog and hire extra staff.

"We have made some progress and the force is training more staff so we don't find ourselves in that position again.

"The government made it possible for police forces to recover the cost of these licences by increasing the prices quite substantially so there could be better cost recovery.

"But what price do you put on public safety? Sometimes you have to take those difficult decisions and say you need to invest a little bit more in this so that we are providing that service.

"This isn't about the politics behind individuals' views on a particular matter, it's about compliance with the law, and that's the important issue here."

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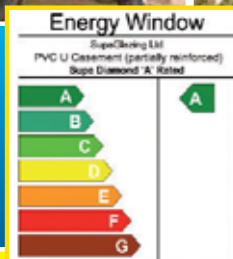
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Artistic take on refugees' plight and salvation

An art exhibition in Rochester runs until next weekend, giving youngsters who have found safety and security in the county after fleeing their troubled homelands a chance to tell their story

By Adele Couchman

adele.couchman@archant.co.uk

TWO young refugees who arrived in the UK unaccompanied from the Calais Jungle have spoken of how their new life in Kent has given them freedom and safety.

Henok, 17, and Abdu, 18, are part of a young refugee art exhibition at the Huguenot Museum in Rochester that tells the story of their personal journeys through the asylum system.

Eight boys and two girls under the age of 18 have contributed to the British Red Cross project, all of whom fled from an array of troubled countries, including: Albania, Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Sudan and Iran.

They all arrived in the UK alone from the infamous Jungle, which was used by migrants fleeing war and poverty to try and reach the UK before it was demolished by the French government last month.

Under the Children Act 1989, it is Kent County Council's legal responsibility to care for under-18s who arrive in the county from abroad seeking asylum, where Kent's social services are currently looking after more than 1,400 young unaccompanied children.

Henok, whose full name cannot be given for his protection, is one of them. He now lives in Gravesend after fleeing Eritrea in east Africa.

"I love living in Gravesend. It's small, it's clean, the people are lovely and I have so many friends here", explains the 17-year-old, who arrived in Kent in September 2015.

One of Henok's art pieces shows a soldier dragging a citizen by the neck - something he says symbolises national conscription in his home country. By law, each Eritrean is compelled to serve 18 months in national service but in practice many conscripts serve for over a decade. While most young Eritreans begin military training for the last year of high school, children as young as 15 are sometimes conscripted.

"The difference between here and Eritrea is the freedom," he adds.

In Eritrea, there is military service by force - it doesn't matter if you want to go to school or go to college.

"I was called up for military service when I was in 11th grade. You can't go to school, you can't get married, you can't get a job, you can't make money. You are stuck there forever.

"The fragile art piece symbolises how the world is broken on one side in east Africa, but the British Red Cross is helping the planet up.

"When people ask me where I'm from, I tell them I'm from Earth. All people come to Earth with nothing, and when they die they leave with nothing. We're all the same, and it doesn't matter where we are from.

"My artwork is about my journey. Sometimes people didn't understand why I came here, so I chose art to explain my story."

Another refugee involved in the project is 18-year-old Abdu, a Greenhithe resident who arrived in Kent last September from Sudan. Like Henok, he too is studying at Lewisham College with ambitions to become an engineer.

"I want to build because I want to help people - people who don't have homes and don't have schools.



VISITOR: One of those looking at the works studies one of the images created by Henok which captures the reality of life in Eritrea in east Africa, he now lives in Gravesend. Below, other works on display at the Huguenot Museum

"Being from a different county, learning a different culture and starting again is very difficult.

"Where I live is very quiet and there is nobody else my age I know. But I am about happy about where I live in Kent because it is safe."

Along with Henok and the other refugees involved in the art project, Abdu took part in a collaborative piece of a patch-work life jacket.

He said: "The life jacket is my favourite piece of artwork. It was made by different people who tell the story of their journey and how they got here from different countries by boat.

"The patches are of human rights and every patch symbolises a right everyone should have," said Abdu.

Adds Henok: "Some of us had a lifejacket; some of us didn't - including me.

"I was probably at the Calais Jungle for about two weeks, but you just lose track of time there."

The project is run by Red Cross Young Refugee Advocacy Project Coordinator, Robert Lloyd and Amy Dimmock at the Huguenot Museum. Mr Lloyd's team run a drop-in centre in Gravesend that help refugees aged between 15 and 19 adjust to life in their community.

He explained: "The art shows all the young people's different stories. All of them share a thread of courage and how to persevere.

"Young refugees are so often spoken of in public, but as minors rarely get the opportunity to speak for themselves. This exhibition offers them a unique platform of expression to tell their story to the public.

"The artwork produced is the culmination of months of hard work and dedication from these vulnerable young refugees. I cannot begin to imagine what they have gone through, but each piece offers a glimpse into their traumatising and often unspoken reality."

The British Red Cross helps millions of people in the UK and around the world to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, disasters and conflicts.

Their volunteers and staff help people in crisis to live independently by providing support at home, mobility aids and transport, as well as teaching and first aid skills.

Exodus: Our Journey As Young Refugees is being shown in the Huguenot Museum in Rochester High Street until November 19.

Each young refugee will gain a bronze arts award certificate for presenting their work to the public.

Henok and Abdu's full names have not been given, or Henok's photograph, for their protection.

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Rebuilding veterans after the front line

We take a trip to Royal British Legion Industries to see how ex-services personnel are put on road to recovery...

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A CHARITY providing employment, accommodation and rehabilitation to war veterans in Kent has “ridden the storm” of a nationwide care crisis and is optimistic about the future, according to its chief executive.

The Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) village in Aylesford has helped care for former service men and women for almost a century, but like so many services, it has come under particular strain in recent years.

Providing a host of services, it aims to get individuals with disabilities and health problems back into work while also giving them the confidence they may have lost since returning from conflict.

Funding comes through a variety of means, and chief executive Steve Sherry told KoS this week it has been a challenge at times, but the charity is coming out the other side with a positive outlook.

“We have an environment where we want and need to provide high quality, but labour is not getting any cheaper, there’s a shortage of nurses and yet there seems to be a downward pressure on the price commissioners are prepared to pay,” he said.

“That’s causing problems right across the care sector and we are not immune to that.

“About three years ago we identified this as an issue and while it of course remains difficult, we’ve ridden the storm of most of it quite successfully, and it’s not now putting us under any threat of collapsing.”

The site offers a range of accommodation for its veterans to cater for a number of different needs and requirement – from the Gavin Astor House care home, to Queen Elizabeth Court, which offers a more independent living space, to Mountbatten Pavilion which provides short-term care available for a few months to give veterans a little respite and get back on their feet.

As part of a group of charities, the RBLI uses referral partners and then assesses potential tenants on a scoring

system to ensure the most needy go to the top of the list.

Mr Sherry said: “In our emergency accommodation, the first thing we say to them pretty much is ‘where are you going next?’. The exit plan is discussed right at the outset.

“We move people on very quickly because if not there’s a danger of developing a dependency.”

Since KoS last visited the village three years ago, it has continued to grow and expand in its remarkable support for a particularly vulnerable pocket of the population.

A community hub, known as Base Camp, was opened by local MP Tracey Crouch last year at the heart of the village to allow casual meetings of residents, visitors and even small clubs such as craft groups to get together.

Two blocks of 12 apartments open in April to provide further accommodation, while a garden designed by the award-winning Jo Thompson for the Chelsea Flower Show was donated to the village earlier this year.

Also on the site and growing exponentially is LifeWorks – a five-day in-



SKILLS: Giving brave servicemen the chance to rebuild their lives

tensive training programme aiming to reduce the 120,000 unemployed ex-service personnel in the UK through developing support, confidence and vocational skills to help reintegrate them back into society.

And the programme is clearly proving a success, with 83 per cent

finding themselves in employment, training or volunteering within 12 months of attending a course despite 79 per cent suffering a disability or health condition.

Head of LifeWorks Iain Downie told KoS: “By the time people reach us they have been unemployed for some

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time, they have lost their confidence.

"Where we are different is we aim to make it as individual as we can – if someone's already got a great CV we're not going to rip it up and start all over again.

"It's working with them so they can articulate their skills better and therefore understand themselves a bit better, building confidence.

"At the end of it all, they come out with a huge smile on their face and realise it's made a difference – we regularly get comments saying it's changed their lives."

Secretary of state for civil society Rob Wilson visited the village last month to discuss rolling out the LifeWorks scheme to the wider commu-

nity and the RBLI has already started implementing the programme within prisons in a drive to help reduce re-offending.

"We aim to get them in their last 12 months so it's relevant, appropriate and timely on a one-week course," Mr Sherry said.

"There are limitations to it but the important thing is to get their mind in a positive way so that they can affect change in their life."

However, the chief executive admits establishing that initial contact with the former service people they want to help is one of the RBLI's biggest challenges.

"No one goes around with 'I'm a veteran' across their forehead and in

prison there's further complications because people don't like to declare anything that would attract atten-

tion one way or the other," he said.

"All prisons have a 'veterans in custody' officer which helps and then if we get in there and deliver, word of mouth spreads but it takes time.

"The same applies outside of prison – people who have been unemployed for a long time they've lost their contacts and network, their GP and local job centre might not know they're a veteran and so getting them onto a course is always a challenge.

"The ones we really want to help are those that are the hardest to reach – we know they're out there because one in 20 people in Kent have served."

While many who complete the LifeWorks course go off to work in other areas of the country, some stay on site and work in Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company – a factory that produces signage used nationwide, including one for a road named after a fallen soldier in Manchester, set to be unveiled this weekend.

It turns over £5m but director of commercial operations Geoff Streetley stresses it is a 'surplus' rather than a 'profit' as it all gets reinvested

back into its operations.

Among the remarkable stories of the veterans working in the village are Colin Pavey, who has worked on site for 30 years despite losing his arm in an accident and Anil Gurung, who this year won a silver medal at the Invictus Games.

Likewise, Steve Hammond served in the Welsh Guards before being invalided in 1989 and now works as a councillor on Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in addition to his role in the factory.

He told KoS: "It's a great place to work, it's like being in the forces, you've still got that military-style structure.

"It's like a family, they call me Grandad Hammond now, and we get together and just talk over issues as a family.

"I think it'll grow and the more ex-servicemen we have on the road to recovery, the better."

■ Do you know any war veterans who would benefit from RBLI's services? Get in touch on 0800 319 6844 or visit www.wearlifeworks.org.uk

WHAT IS ROYAL BRITISH LEGION INDUSTRIES?

OFTEN confused with the Royal British Legion, synonymous with the poppy appeal, the RBLI is its own entity, which aims to make a surplus through trading, mainly via its factory on site in Aylesford, where products are manufactured and then sold.

That surplus is then ploughed back into its operations to help its beneficiaries.

It was first established to help returning soldiers from the First World War, especially those suffering with tuberculosis, to recover and gain new skills.

However, its reach stretches way beyond Kent, with another site in Leatherhead, Surrey - employing 110 people across the two sites - and delivery of LifeWorks courses at dozens of locations across the

country, all with the aim of providing tailored employability advice to veterans of all ages, no matter how long they served.

It also runs a range of campaigns to help raise money and awareness of its activities, including #BeBraveWithMe which challenges people to take on their fears to support 'Britain's Bravest' in finding work.

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Your guide to remembrance parades across the county



Services are taking place in dozens of places this Sunday to allow communities to come together and pay tribute. Here's some of the biggest

By Adele Couchman
& Emily King

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

REMEMBRANCE Sunday provides that rarest of moments – an opportunity for communities to gather together for quiet contemplation; a powerful united front to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to celebrate the peace which they have achieved and maintained.

What is more, young and old alike attend for very different reasons. Be it to remember those conscripts who were plucked from their normal lives and plunged into the most brutal of bloody battles during the two world wars, to those modern professional soldiers braving difficult conditions in far-away lands and fighting an enemy who does not subscribe to traditional warfare.

For those who are long gone, to those who survive but continue to bear the scars, the power is simply that we abide by the immortal phrase

– lest we forget. There will be dozens of events taking place throughout the county – at war memorials and in churches in our villages, towns and cities.

Here we list some of the main events taking place in our major towns – check locally for details of other events.

■ TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A service of remembrance will be held at the war memorial on Mount Pleasant Road, beginning at 10.45am. Greg Clark MP and the mayor and mayoress of Tunbridge Wells will be among those laying wreaths. At 2pm, the mayor will attend Tunbridge Wells Cemetery to lay wreaths at the two Cross of Sacrifice memorials to the servicemen and women buried there.

■ TONBRIDGE

The service and wreath-laying in the Memorial Gardens at Bradford Street, will start at 10.45am and will be followed by a parade which will take its usual route past the town memorial at the Watergate and dismiss in front of Tonbridge Castle.

■ WEST MALLING

Events will start at 2pm with the mayor taking the salute by the pump in the High Street as part of the remembrance service and parade. From the saluting base the parade will then continue to St Mary's Church where the remembrance service will begin at 2.30pm. After the service there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial outside the church.

■ SNODLAND

Borough council cabinet member David Lettington will be among those attending the parade and service. The parade will leave Holmesdale Technology College at 2.30pm following the route to Snodland Cemetery where the service will take place. Following this the parade will then proceed to the Paddlesworth Rooms in Waghorn Road.

■ MAIDSTONE

The county town's parade will step off at 10.30am from Week Street and march along the High Street, past the Town Hall, across the bridge gyrato-

ry and to the memorial on The Broadway for the service of remembrance. The mayor of Maidstone will lay the first wreath on behalf of the people of the district. After the service, the parade will march back into town where the mayor will take the salute outside the Town Hall.

■ GILLINGHAM

The Royal Naval Service will take place at the war memorial, Great Lines, and begins at 9am when the mayor and the chief executive will attend a short service and wreath laying ceremony. The Black Lion war memorial act of remembrance will take place at 9.55am with a wreath laying ceremony and a procession to St Mark's Church following.

■ RAINHAM

Rainham's St Margaret's Church war memorial remembrance service and wreath laying ceremony will start at 10.15am.

■ CHATHAM

Wreaths will be laid at Victoria Gardens in Chatham with a ceremo-

ny beginning at 10.45am. Brompton War Memorial on Wood Street will have also have a wreath laying ceremony at 11am.

■ DARTFORD

The annual service of remembrance will take place at the war memorial in Central Park. The service will begin at 10.40am. There will then be a march past by veterans, uniformed and youth organisations from the High Street and along Market Street. Wilmington's service at St Barnabas Church starts at 10.45am with the procession leaving the Summerhouse Drive shops at 10.30am.

■ GRAVESEND





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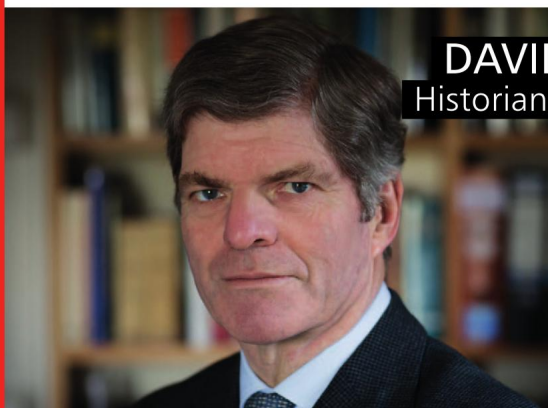


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POPPIES: Wear your poppy with pride this weekend

Gravesend's main service, parade and wreath laying ceremony organised by the council and The Royal British Legion's Gravesend and Ebbsfleet Branch will be at 11am in Windmill Hill Memorial Gardens.

■ DOVER

Starting at 10am with a parade and wreath laying at the Dover War Memorial, outside the town council offices in Biggin Street. The Mayor of Dover, councillors and veteran associations will be in attendance.

■ DEAL

Deal will host a remembrance service outside the war memorial at the front entrance of Deal Hospital. All

should assemble for 10.30am for act of remembrance to commence at 10.50am.

■ WALMER

Crowds will gather at St Saviour's Church, The Strand, at 11am. The ceremony at the churchyard memorial will be attended by the 2nd Deal Sea Scouts among many others.

■ FOLKESTONE

The main service takes place from the Leas Cliff Hall to the war memorial and arch at 10.30am. Volunteers will be adding their own hand made poppies to the Road of Remembrance at 8am, including students from East Kent College's Folkestone campus



STATUE: In Tunbridge Wells

who have been making their own poppies to add to the collection on Remembrance Hill ahead of this year's service.

■ ASHFORD

The traditional two minute's silence and wreath laying ceremony will be held in the Memorial Gardens following a parade from St Mary's Church Hall at 10.35am. Those attending include local MP Damian Green, the mayor of Ashford, the deputy lord lieutenant of Kent and Ashford's Royal British Legion president.

■ SITTINGBOURNE

Taking place at the war memorial in Central Avenue at 10.50am. Chap-

lain to the Sittingbourne and Milton branch of the Royal British Legion Pat Tatchell, the mayor and corporal Lauren Kingsnorth will attend and lay wreaths. After the service the mayor, her cadet and a representative from The Royal British Legion will take the salute as the parade marches past the front of the police station in Central Avenue.

■ SHEERNESS

There will be a short service and wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph from 10.30am. A parade will then proceed to Holy Trinity Church in Broadway for a service at 11.45am. The town centre chaplain reverend Jeanette McLaren and Royal British Legion padre reverend Colin Johnson will officiate at both venues.

■ FAVERSHAM

Laying of wreaths will take place at 10.45am at the war memorial in Stone Street. There will then be a service in the church at 11.30am where there will be additional wreath laying. Councillor Mike Cosgrove and Bryan Mulhern will be representing the mayor.

■ CANTERBURY

Canterbury Cathedral will be hosting a remembrance service at 9.30am followed by a reception in Tower House – with the Lord Mayor and mayoress in attendance. They will then attend a wreath laying service at Blean Village Hall from 2.50pm.

■ WHITSTABLE

The former Lord Mayor, Sally Waters, will attend the Royal British Legion's remembrance day commemoration at the War Memorial in

Whitstable from 10.30am.

■ BROADSTAIRS

Broadstair's annual remembrance service will be taking place at the memorial on the High Street at 10.45am.

■ RAMSGATE

There will be a march at 10.30am from the Elms Club, which will proceed through Queen Street, the High Street and end at St George's Church. After the service the march will return to the Elms Club, where the mayor of Ramsgate and the Ring Commander from Manston RAF will be in attendance.

■ MARGATE

The mayor Robin Edwards invites the people of Margate to the service of remembrance and wreath laying ceremony. The parade for this service, once assembled at Zion Place will proceed at 10.30am to the war memorial in Trinity Hill. At 10.48am the service of remembrance will begin.

■ SEVENOAKS

The service will begin at 10.50am with the congregation gathering from 10.40am. It will take place at Vine war memorial on Dartford Road, and the mayor of Sevenoaks Stephen Arnold, deputy lieutenant Lord Sackville, and chairman of Sevenoaks District Council Simon Raikes will all be in attendance.

■ AYLESHAM

The parade commences at 10.15am. It will travel via Hyde Place, Dorman Avenue South, Market Place. The open air service will begin in Market Square with wreath laying at 10.45am.

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told!) Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424783

JANE, young 41, very broad-minded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much more fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424491

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 42363

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424777

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423035

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTW interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424775

HI GENTS, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box 423035

SUE, outgoing lady, enjoys life, likes meals, holidays, WLTW mature gentleman to share interests and spend quality time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424669

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curly lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. Tel: 0906 515 3032 Box 424385

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424493

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady, young looking 60s, genuine and kind, seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424671

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter. WLTW chap 30+. If you are a more better. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3012 Box 424543

CLARE, 41, attractive, lovely eyes, nice figure, smoker, likes beach walks, socialising, occasional gigs. WLTW a nice gent, any age over 40, for winning and dining, to be my soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424595

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at first, interested? Ma ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424195

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTW someone to share interests with, and quality time. Text only Mailbox: 555264

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

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CORRINE, genuine adventurous seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196

JULIE, 53yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTW men friends for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424497

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no time-wasters. Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424495

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. Text Only: Mailbox: 4090520

PRESENTABLE divorced lady, young 60, many interests, animal lover, seeks outgoing, cheerful, honest, smart looking man, for cultural times. Text only Mailbox: 5576629

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTW gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424337

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424335

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTW chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424333

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424331

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at first, interested? Ma ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424195

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTW someone to share interests with, and quality time. Text only Mailbox: 555264

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NICK, mature male, builder, tattoos, plenty of money, looking for discreet meets, no strings in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424787

RETIRED, intelligent, Broadstairs widower, GSOH, medium height and build, seeks slim lady for friendship and companionship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424697

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424685

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424683

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424681

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424679

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTW lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424677

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have come fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, travelling, holidays, arts, looking for a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424147

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, jiving, WLTW single gentleman for companionship and possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423411

WIDOW, 70s, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423359

GENUINE lady, 67, slim, GSOH, caring, honest, active, likes most things in life, days out, countryside, animals, long walks, visiting interesting places, cooking and holidays. WLTW a caring, honest male with GSOH, 67-73, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423289

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

TONY black male, 58, 5ft6, med build, n/s, seeking a local mature fun loving female 40/75 in the Chatham/Gillingham area for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 5459052

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

TALL single early 60's male looking for pure hearted lady for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5496781

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

MALE, widower, n/s, would love to meet bubbly friendly lady, up to 70, for friendship at first, interests include all types of music, walking, quizzes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422957

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have come fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

BRIAN, 6ft3, fit, bit grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423483

MALE, 53, 5ft6, single, hardworking, looking for slim/small lady. 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423363

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

WOULD Mick from Maidhead get in touch with John from Northampton - lost your number. Text only Mailbox: 4172093

HI I'm Andrew, 59, slim longish hair WLTW men aged 55-80 for daytime fun. Bi-curious. Sittingbourne Text only Mailbox: 5469911

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HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTW someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329



WRITER, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

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ALAN, 68, gay man seeking a man, 65-75, for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424885

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422

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HEAVENLY: The singer only had three weeks to rehearse before opening night

Alexandra Burke gives Sister Act the X Factor as lead role

Having finished performing in *The Bodyguard*, Ms Burke takes on a new role...

SISTER Act the musical, tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes an unexpected turn when she witnesses a murder.

Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a convent. Disguised as a nun and under the watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices and she unexpectedly discovers her own.

Alexandra Burke plays Deloris in this tale of sisterhood which is coming to the stage.

Here, she speaks to KoS about the opening show, and life on the road.

"I was offered the role by producer Jamie Wilson after he found out I was leaving *The Bodyguard*," says Ms Burke.

"I was actually offered the role towards the end of last year but

turned it down. However, I was then sent the script, and heard the music and it was just brilliant. The music is what persuaded me to play Deloris."

Ms Burke only had three weeks to rehearse her role before taking to the stage but she says: "It's been really good so far. My hat goes off to the stage crew, they only have a day to get everything ready before the first show at any destination begins."

The character of Deloris is crazy yet stubborn and not always the most understanding.

When asked if she feels she can relate to her character at all, the singer laughs saying: "No, not really. She's crazy, which I guess I am too but I'm not as stubborn."

"What's great about Deloris is, she doesn't come across very well at the beginning but later on she real-

ises there's more to life than fame. When she realises that, she finds love."

Describing Sister Act in one word, Ms Burke claims it is 'outrageous'.

She elaborates: "You really have to let everything go when you're both on the stage and in the audience. You have to be silly and goofy."

It's not all fun and games off stage though as the performer explains that she hates touring.

She said "I despise touring. I miss my family and to be honest I've never liked it, even when I was doing my own tour, because I find it really hard being away from home and my family."

"I'm not meant to be going home at all this year, but if I leave on a Sunday I do try to make it home. It just depends where I am. It's a sacrifice I'm willing to take to

put in the best performances."

Ms Burke is hoping to go back to more singing-orientated work in the future though.

"I'm enjoying theatre at this moment in time but music is my priority and it is something that I will return to and put more time into in the future."

When asked how she'd like the audience to feel after they watch Sister Act, she said: "I just want people to say they'd come back to see it again. It's a rollercoaster of emotions but I want them to relax, and walk away wanting more."

Ms Burke will be performing in Sister Act at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from January 2 to 7, 2017. For tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.

And also at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from June 26 to July 1 2017. For tickets, visit marlowetheatre.com.

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By Rail from Ebbsfleet

29 December, 2016 • Quote: NY12-KOS

Celebrate the New Year in style on board the 4-star MS Johannes Brahms river cruiser. Starting in Amsterdam we have plenty of time to enjoy the Dutch capital before sailing past Kinderdijk, which has 19 windmills in a stunning landscape straight from a Rembrandt painting. We continue to Rotterdam, where we count down to 2017 with a New Year party and a spectacular fireworks display over the city's Erasmus Bridge.

INCLUDED: Escorted return Eurostar travel from Ebbsfleet (Ebbsfleet parking from just £21 for 4 days) • 4-night full board plus cruise sharing a twin-bed rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine and soft drinks served at lunch, dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



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3 April, 2017 • Quote: BD4-KOS

Join us for a fun and friendly cruise on board the MV Prinses Christina. A visit to Holland in springtime is a mesmerising feast for the senses as the gardens and fields are full to bursting with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, spring flowering shrubs and plants. The highlight of this cruise is an included visit to Keukenhof Gardens with its magnificent floral displays. There is time to explore the canals, museums and flower markets of Amsterdam, plus Enkhuizen and Hoorn.

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Back to the 60s

Premium Carry on New Year Party
Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Friday, 6 January, 2017 • Quote: NY1-2-KOS

Join us for a private party that extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane - for over 40s only - at Warner Bembridge, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party, lots of nostalgic fun and Free Drinks every night. We've lined up a super entertainment programme featuring tributes to the Beatles, the Stylistics and Tom Jones plus the ever-popular team pantomime.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - room in main hotel upgrades available • Return car ferry & Free parking



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By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

4 & 25 June & 3 Sept, 2017 • Quote: RH-KOS

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinses Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. Our cruise visits Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Konigswinter and Cologne. Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7-night full board cruise on the MV Prinses Christina sharing a twin bed outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Transfers abroad



Margate sets scene for a tale of friendship between women

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

REHEARSED readings of the Hannah and Hanna, the story of friendship between an ordinary Margate girl, and an asylum seeker from Kosovo, and a more recent version, Hannah and Hanna in Dreamland, by John Retallack are being presented in Margate.

The original story premiered in Margate in 2001, and now a new story Hannah and Hanna in Dreamland is set to do the same.

The tale tells of two teenagers, who meet in Margate at the turn of the 21st century. Hannah is Margate born and bred. Hanna is an asylum seeker who has fled her country's war with Serbia, along with her mother and brother.

Despite Margate Hannah's initial hostility, the girls soon become friends, finding that their shared love of pop music is stronger than their cultural differences.

The story won a Herald Angel in Edinburgh in 2001. The following year it was presented at the Time Out Critics Choice Festival at BAC and toured nationally. This was



REVISITED: Author John Retallack has come back to the story of the two women, this time set in 2015

followed by two further national tours and by British Council supported presentations in India, Malaysia and the Philippines.

It has been translated into eight languages.

The new tale, Hannah and Hanna in Dreamland, tells the story of the two friends 15 years on.

It's 2015, Dreamland has just reopened, the UKIP conference is at the Winter Gardens and Mar-

gate has become a sought-after destination. Margate Hannah is now an estate agent, cashing in on the town's newfound popularity. Hanna, disillusioned with opportunities in Kosovo, once again comes to the UK in search of a better life.

By chance, they meet and pick up the friendship they had as teenagers – although this time, against the different social and political

backdrop of both Margate and Pristina.

These readings offer the opportunity to hear both plays consecutively and will be followed by discussions.

The reading of Hannah and Hanna is at 2.30pm and of Hannah and Hanna in Dreamland at 7.30pm at Theatre Royal on December 2.

Both readings are produced by UK Arts International in association with the theatre.

Snow White the ballet

CLASSICAL ballet takes centre stage when the Vienna Festival Ballet Company returns to Gravesend's Woodville Theatre on November 16 with Snow White.

For tickets, call 08442 439480.



Hit musical Hairspray

FOLLOWING its previous tour success, Hairspray the musical will arrive at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from August 28 to September 9, 2017, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from May 8 to 12, 2017.

For tickets, visit box offices on orchardtheatre.co.uk or marlowetheatre.com

The Little Mermaid

MUSICAL adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid is coming to Margate's Theatre Royal on April 8 and 9 2017.

To book, visit theatreroyal-margate.com



Comedy Out of Order

OUT of Order, the Olivier Award-winning comedy is coming to the stage at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from June 5 to 10 2017.

The new production stars Shaun Williamson (EastEnders, Extras) and Sue Holderness (Only Fools and Horses, Green Green Grass).

To book tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

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Santa's in Gravesend

A jolly Santa with his trusty reindeer, Mrs Claus, and a party of elves, await visitors to Millbrook Garden Centre in Gravesend from November 19. Visit www.millbrookgc.co.uk to book a visit.



Maidstone Wind Symphony

MAIDSTONE Wind Symphony's first full concert of its 2016/17 season, Amazing Grace, will take place on November 19 at All Saints Church on Mill Street.

The orchestra will be supporting the charity Combat Stress with a retiring collection. Tickets are £8 on the door.

Christmas fairy storytime

FAMILIES can come along and join an elf as they tell the story of Freya the Christmas Fairy at Gravesend Library on November 18.

Entry is free. Call 03000 413131 to book a slot.



Durrant guitar concert

RICHARD Durrant is bringing A Candlelit Christmas guitar concert to St Mary's and St Peter's Church, Wilmington, on December 16; St. Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham, on December 8; and Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on December 20.

Visit www.richarddurrant.com for tickets.

Chartwell exhibition - Child of the Commons

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

THE home of Sir Winston Churchill, Chartwell in Westerham, is set to launch a new winter exhibition, Child of the Commons, full of discovery as well as items that have never before been on public display.

Running from November 12 to February 19, 2017, the exhibition focuses on the political career of Sir Winston Churchill. It will feature more than 50 objects, from personal family mementoes to commemorative gifts that will tell the stories of Churchill's time in politics and why, in his own words, he would spend his life as a Child of the commons.

Many of the objects are items Chartwell hopes to acquire with the Keep Churchill at Chartwell appeal. Launched on the September 5, the appeal hopes to raise £7.1 million by the end of January 2017 in order to save these and many more items once belonging to Churchill for the nation.

Child of the Commons has been researched by a team of National



Trust staff and volunteers, and offers a unique insight into the breadth of Churchill's political career.

Katherine Barnett, house and collections manager at Chartwell, comments: "Child of the Commons has been a wonderful exhibition to curate as it's allowed us to focus on Churchill's wider political career. His achievements ranged from being the youngest person in the Cabinet for over 100 years, right through to being the longest serving MP of the twentieth century. With constituencies

across the length of the UK, having contested 21 elections and served with two different political parties, Churchill's political career was a real rollercoaster and it's wonderful that we get to share these stories here at Chartwell."

Child of the Commons is open daily from 11am-3pm (closed December 24 and 25). National Trust members receive free entry. Adult entry to gardens, studio & exhibition £7.40. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell or telephone 01732 868381.



GIFTS: Some objects on display are commemorative.



PERSONAL: Chartwell was known as Churchill's family home.

Get a MOOove on and book your tickets now!

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Robin Cousins
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Hannah-Jane Fox
(CBBC's Millie Inbetween)
as Fairy Fuschia

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(Hollyoaks)
as Simple Simon

Ian Mowat
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'Some chefs should smile more!' says Purnell

Brummie chef Glynn Purnell talks about receiving the first ever Michelin star in Birmingham...

HE'S been branded one of the trailblazers of new British cooking, but at the heart of Glynn Purnell's success is his refusal to take himself too seriously.

If he's not cracking jokes and reel-ing off witty anecdotes, the 'Yummy Brummie' is referring to himself as the Roger Federer of Birmingham's exploding culinary scene.

"I'm always going to be remembered as something that broke the mould; the one who was awarded the first ever Michelin star in Birmingham," says the forward-thinker.

"I'm still in the mix, so I like to see myself as a Roger Federer: I won't be No 1 all of the time, but it's great," the 41-year-old adds, chuckling.

"Competition is great!"

Purnell, who today runs the Michelin-starred Purnell's restaurant and Purnell's Bistro in Birmingham's thriving city centre, has plenty to smile about.

His latest venture is the brilliantly-titled cookbook *Rib Ticklers & Choux-Ins*, a follow-up to 2014's *Cracking Yolks & Pig Tales*, and a tome he says was inspired by the more down-to-earth dishes served at his bistro, or "takeaway food at home".

Written with trademark wit, chapters range from 'This little piggy went to market' to 'A moment on the lips'.

It's infused with brunch, fish, meat and knockout dessert recipes, and peppered with yarns about perfecting his skills through years of reading



'YUMMY BRUMMIE': Glynn Purnell

women's magazines at the dentist, and why he has such a vendetta against sprouts.

"It's important as a chef to have your own personality, but then to be able to put that personality onto the page makes you different," reasons Purnell.

"When I stop running restaurants, and when I stop doing what I'm doing, I want people to look back and go, 'Oh look, that's a Glynn Purnell dish', or when they come to the restaurant and eat a dish, they know they're not going to get that anywhere else in the world.

"It's important to keep hold of your personality," he continues. "I've been cooking in Michelin-star restaurants nearly all of my career, and chefs al-

ways want to perceive themselves as being a bit aggressive. I've moved on from that.

"I don't need to push my chest out and act like some sort of big grumpy chef that throws plates at people, because times have changed. For me, food is fun; you should have fun.

"Some chefs should smile a bit more – it wouldn't kill them!"

Residing in Warwickshire he's "out in the sticks".

"I think other cities are quite daunting, because everybody knows of me [in Birmingham]. If I went to London, would I just get swallowed up?

"I'm going to keep moving forward and carry on being the chirpy Brummie I always am!"

Paradise Lost dance

LOST Dog, the dance and theatre company is fronted by its artistic director Ben Duke whose self-penned *Paradise Lost* has been performing to audiences for over a year.

Mr Duke plays all the characters and creates all the scenes.

The show is coming to the University of Kent's Gulbenkian on December 1.

For tickets, call 01227 769075.

A 1940s festive season

STEP back into the 1940s at Kent Life Heritage Farm Park and experience the sights, sounds and smells of wartime Christmas over November 26 and 27.

Find out how to make do and mend, learning how civilians coped with rationing by preserving and re-styling clothes from the era, and discover how to rustle up some genuine 1940s recipes.

Book online at www.kentlife.org.uk.

Charity book signing

A signing of Rob Smith's latest book *A Dockyard Matey Makes Good* has been arranged at Dobbies Garden Centre Gillingham on December 10.

The book is an account of his working life, in three parts, from an apprentice in Chatham Dockyard to a senior engineer with the Army.

Proceeds of the book sales will be shared with charity The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Live music and ice rink

The Assembly Hall Theatre and The Forum have announced a collaboration to bring live music to the Royal Tunbridge Wells Ice Rink in Calverley Grounds.

Starting on November 24 acts will take to the stage through to December 15.

Entrance to the music nights is free.

If you would like to skate, tickets can be purchased from www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com



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Christmas festivities at White Horse Inn

THIS festive season come and visit the newly refurbished White Horse Inn at Bridge. Dating back to the 16th Century, this former coaching inn is located on the old London to Dover Road just 2.5 miles south of Canterbury.

Sample the delights of our bar and restaurant menus developed by our new chef, with the focus on fresh, flavoursome, locally sourced ingredients. Choose from our extensive and recently updated range of cask ales, ciders and wines.

Relax and enjoy the ambience of a traditional pub, with beamed ceilings and roaring fires. Open every day, with ample car parking at the rear. We look forward to welcoming you.

Celebrate your Christmas Party at the White Horse Inn or join us on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

Please visit our website or call for more information: www.whitehorsebridge.co.uk

Opening times are as follows:

■ Bar – Monday to Sunday 11am-11pm.

■ Daytime – Monday to Saturday 12pm-9.30pm.

■ Sunday Lunch – 12pm-8pm.



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Telephone: 01227 471912
Website: tylerskln.co.uk

Main: Turkey with all the trimmings - sage and onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, honey roast parsnip, braised red cabbage, duck fat roasted potatoes, Brussels sprouts and gravy. (Stuffing contains gluten) £15.95
Dessert: Chocolate fondant - Melt in the middle fondant served with honeycomb ice cream, toffee sauce and toasted almonds. (contains nuts, milk, eggs) £6.50 (v/gf)

White Horse Inn

53 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, CT4 5LA
Telephone: 01227 833830
Website: whitehorsebridge.co.uk

Main: Slow braised half shoulder of Lamb with vegetables and potatoes in a rosemary and red wine Madeira sauce.
Dessert: Chocolate cheesecake with clotted cream and honeycomb.

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Dinner: 18:00 – 22:00

Sunday: 12:00 – 14:00

Drinks available from 17:00 – an exclusive range of high quality wines available at reasonable prices

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Bookings: Call 01732 369 244 or email enquiries@one60.uk
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JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS AT THREE HORSESHOES



22nd December
Come along to Santa's Grotto at the Three Horseshoes, meet Santa and then celebrate with a Tea Party inside the pub afterwards
£5 per child with a present

Christmas Menu starts 1st December
3 Course Meal with Coffee
£25 per person

3rd December 7pm
Annual Christmas Karaoke Night

10th December
Annual Christmas Quiz with food
£5 per person

16th December 8pm
The Erics playing live for our big Christmas party, don't miss it

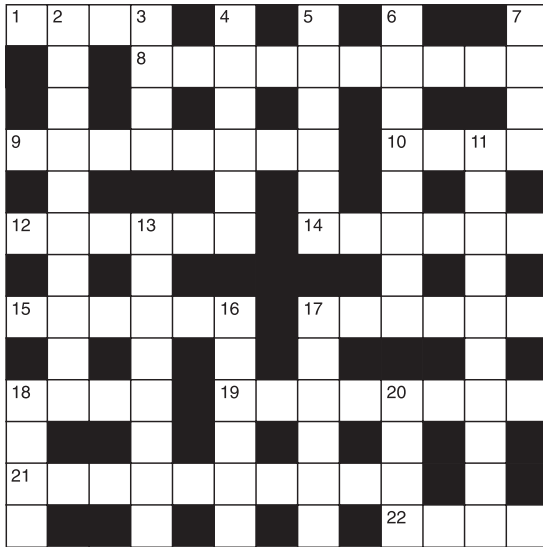
17th December
Steak Night
8oz Fillet Steak cooked on hot lava rocks at your table; served with Cherry tomatoes on the vine, caramelised red onions and chestnut mushrooms, hand cut chunky chips and a carafe of wine.
Only £35 per couple

23rd December
Curry Night
2 Curries and a carafe of Wine
£20 per couple!

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PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

1. Poke (4)
8. Enrage (10)
9. Watchman (8)
10. Chair (4)
12. Overcast (6)
14. Brand (6)
15. Unnatural (6)
17. Look at (6)
18. Continent (4)

Down

19. Skill (8)
21. Deny (10)
22. Sea eagle (4)

6. Urgent (8)
7. Exploit (4)
11. Wonder (10)
13. Impure (8)
16. Beat (6)
17. Rebound (6)
18. Roguish (4)
20. Tardy (4)

Cryptic

Across

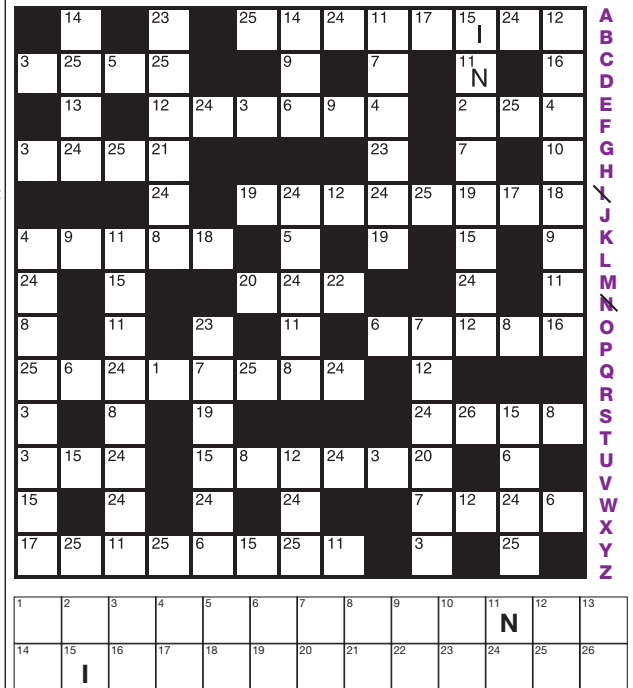
1. Spoken in terror a long time ago (4)
8. Malaise causes animosity (3,7)
9. Rita got a person to stir things up (8)
10. Snug, but shy about showing head (4)
12. Hothead goes to French capital to take administrative area (6)
14. A quiver of the greatest remorse (6)
15. Standing half lost at American get-together (6)
17. Political action as a sign of the times? (6)
18. Container likely to be beaten? (4)
19. Social gathering for politicians in Boston? (3,5)
21. Job centre? (4,6)
22. It prescribes where what is left has to go (4)

Down

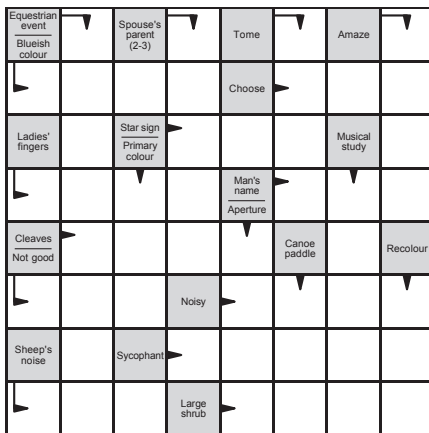
2. Circus MC has to telephone teacher (10)
3. Raise more than fifty feet (4)
4. Tightly grasp part of car (6)
5. Feel sorry for getting the right bird (6)
6. Nobody has any doubt the emergency is over (3,5)
7. Somehow guy, when about 50, became hideous (4)
11. Goods ready for sale even now not moving at all (5,5)
13. Suggest it is swallowed by resident (8)
16. Begin to counterbalance (3,3)
17. Cast it out because not moving (6)
18. In the end, up early enough to cheat (4)
20. Article you and I write up afresh (4)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

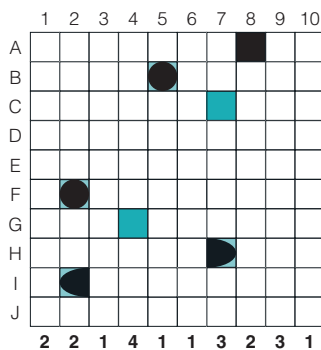


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

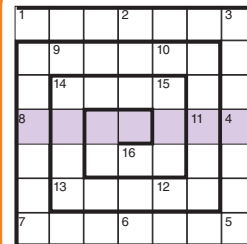
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



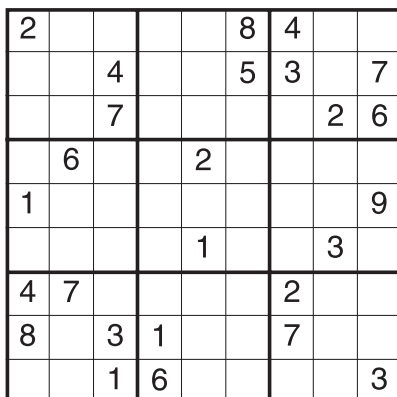
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Explosive device
2. Make beer
3. Untamed
4. Cut into cubes
5. Wicked
6. Young sheep
7. French cheese
8. Egress
9. Petty argument
10. Touch
11. Ear part
12. Heroic
13. Tented area
14. Quick look
15. Go by
16. Prophet

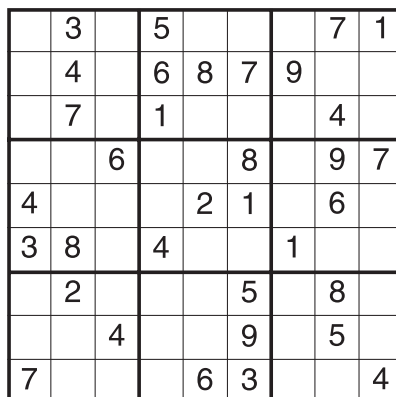
Keyword clue: A gemstone

SUDOKU

Hard



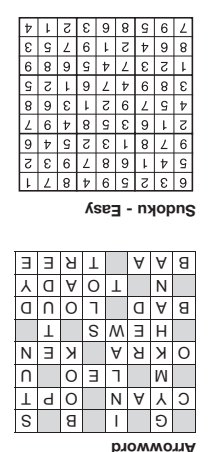
Easy



Solutions

Across: 6 Pressing; 7 Applis; 8 Ill; 9 Agilator; 10 Deleat; 11 Unchaste; 13 Arch; 14 Tremor; 15 Status; 16 Cosy; 17 Parish; 18 Strike; 19 Tea party; 21 Post office; 22 Will. Down: 2 Ring master; 3 Lift; 4 Clutch; 5 Regret; 6 All clear; 7 Ugly; 11 Stock still; 13 Contradict; 22 Erne. Word Spiral: 1 Bomb; 2 Brew; 3 Wild; 4 Dice; 5 Evil; 6 Lamp; 7 Brie; 8 Exit; 9 Tiff; 10 Feel; 11 Lobe; 12 Epic; 13 Camp; 14 Cloud; 15 Stigma; 16 Sentinel; 17 Regard; 18 Cloud; 19 Stigma; 20 Cloud; 21 Stigma; 22 Cloud; 23 Stigma; 24 Cloud; 25 Stigma; 26 Cloud.

Across: 1 Prod; 2 Expaspart; 3 Sentinel; 4 Seat; 5 Regard; 6 All clear; 7 Ugly; 8 Debt; 9 Jaunty; 10 Rebelleous; 11 Stock still; 12 Erne; 13 Contradict; 14 Facility; 15 Asia; 16 Rebelleous; 17 Regard; 18 Cloud; 19 Stigma; 20 Cloud; 21 Stigma; 22 Cloud; 23 Stigma; 24 Cloud; 25 Stigma; 26 Cloud.



Trail along the Golden River

The Douro river rises in Spain and crosses into Portugal at Barca d'Alva before reaching the Atlantic at the famous city of Porto. This last 125 miles are navigable and a major attraction to tourists as Mike Pickup discovered on our recent week's cruise.

Our journey started at Gatwick where Holiday Extras had arranged valet parking so we were soon on our two-hour flight to Porto.

A short transfer brought us to Villa Nova de Gaia, on the banks of river, where we boarded the luxurious AmaVida, our home for the next seven days. Our cabin was elegant with lots of storage spaces; the marble bathroom had top-class fittings and l'Occitane spa quality toiletries. Bath robes and slippers were also provided and there was a small balcony for nightcaps.

The food was excellent and a choice of wines and lagers were included with lunch and dinner. At

breakfast, many of our fellow guests started the day with a Bucks Fizz to accompany their cornflakes.

Before leaving Porto, we enjoyed a city tour and in particular the local railway station, decorated with over 24,000 Azulejos – Portuguese blue ceramic tiles. We also popped to Graham's, one of the many port companies in the city, followed by a tasting of some of their vintages; and all this before lunch.

Narrow and rocky in parts, the rest of the banks of the river are dedicated to growing grapes for wine and port. We passed famous names including Dow's, Graham's, Sandeman, Cockburn and Croft.

The next day we moored at Regua and visited the Douro museum

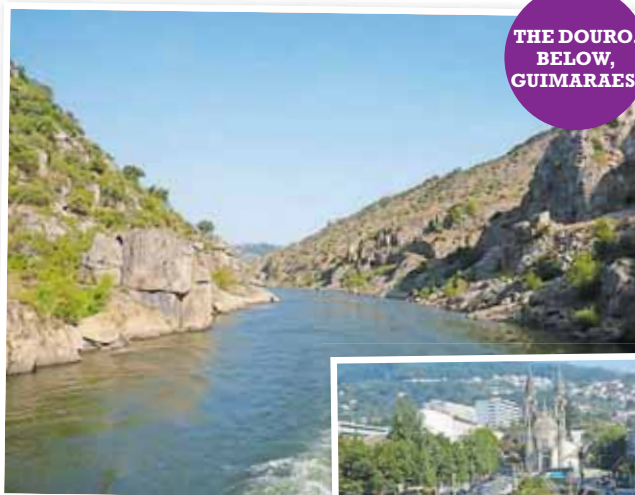
before heading out to Lamego and the 18th century Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. Pilgrims climbed 600 steps to the sanctuary but fortunately our coach did it for us.

Next day we moored in Vega de Terron, a few yards over the border into Spain. This gave us the chance to visit the Spanish Renaissance city of Salamanca, famous for having two cathedrals joined to each other.

The following day we visited the Palace of Mateus whose famous facade adorned those odd-shaped bottles of Mateus Rose many of us remember. Other days saw visits to

historic Guimaraes, the birthplace of Portugal and the lovely Casa de Sezim where we were greeted by the current owner, the house having been in his family since 1376.

After another good night's sleep, we enjoyed a glass of Bucks Fizz with our breakfast before heading to the airport and home.



THE DOURO. BELOW, GUIMARAES.



FACT BOX

AMA Waterways 7 night Enticing Douro river cruise aboard AmaVida departs from Porto and visits, Regua, Barca d'Alva, Vega Terron, Pinhao, Entre-os-Rios, Porto. Prices are from £2348pp for a river view cabin including flights, non UK transfers, seven nights' accommodation,

all meals (with wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner), complimentary daily tours and excursions and free wi-fi. Regional flights on request. Freephone 0800 320 2336 or visit www.amawaterways.co.uk Holiday Extras offers trusted Meet and Greet airport parking services at

all major UK airports. To book Meet and Greet parking at Gatwick Airport from £60.00 for eight days, visit HolidayExtras.com or call 0800 1313 777. Price searched on August 19 for arrival on November 12.

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Week ending November 13, 2016 **33**

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Time to vote out council problem?

IT SEEMS that Swanley Town Council under Tory rule has become increasingly dysfunctional [KoS, last week].

Over recent weeks one Tory has defected to Ukip, another has had the Conservative whip withdrawn, and now a further two elected members, including the mayor, have gone independent, citing Brexit and a bullying culture at the council.

I think given also how much money the council has lost over recent years under Tory administration, it is high time the people of Swanley had much better councillors and officers in charge of their town.

Alan Bullion,
 Lib Dem spokesman for
 Sevenoaks and Swanley

Media's reaction to judges wrong

IT seems the Donald Trump style of thinking and expressing himself is contagious.

All our national newspapers headlines the day after the judges made their judgement concerning the EU referendum were full of spite – including that one of them was gay – and insults against the judges performing the task they were asked to do. Namely, making a legal judgement on the requirements needed for leaving the EU with reference to parliamentary democracy.

It was the equivalent of condemning a surgeon for cutting into the body of a patient. Freedom of the press is an essential principle, but should be used irresponsibly.

D Hedges,
 Chatham

Press needs to be more responsible

THOSE applauding the decision in the High Court concerning Article 50 reveal themselves to be arrant hypocrites.

For four decades they have supported the transfer of power from Westminster to Brussels, resulting in hundreds of directives and regulations becoming law in this country without even a cursory scrutiny by our elected representatives in the Commons.

Now they claim to be concerned for the sovereignty of parliament, when in fact they are aware that there is a majority of MPs determined to frustrate the will of the people, for their own selfish ends, but in a way which will suit the rich elitists bringing the case.

Even worse we now see such people crying crocodile tears over a supposed insult to the independence of the judiciary, perhaps valid were

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Brexit fiasco leaves democracy the victim

ON JUNE 23 there was no third box on our ballot paper with the option 'leave - subject to Parliament's approval of the conditions to invoke Article 50'.

We had just two choices, remain or leave, laid out in the government's taxpayer-funded leaflet.

Parliament passed, by a ratio of six to one the Referendum Act, delegating to the electorate the decision that would be binding. We know now that the decision was binding so long as we voted remain.

Former prime minister David Cameron, who pledged to trigger Article 50 immediately in the event of a leave vote, promptly resigned. Four months have passed and the EU will not commence negotiations for our exit until we invoke Article 50. The government meanwhile is working on a strategy.

Step forward into the High Court entrepreneur Gina Miller to ask the judiciary to rule as to whether

parliament should approve the conditions under which the article is activated. The judges agree using, inter alia, the 17th century bill of rights thereby endorsing the sovereignty of parliament. So here we are, treading water, a possible Supreme Court appeal decision in the new year and no closer to executing the will of the electorate.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the establishment will have its own way and I for one will only believe in Brexit when it happens. Desperate remainers seek to cling on to the status quo and treat the rest of us with contempt.

In this once great country, an election day is the closest we come to true democracy - one man, one vote.

It seems that on this important decision, 650 of us will get to vote twice. In my 70th year, I ask myself is it worth voting for anything or anyone, ever again?

Malcolm Brockman
 Maidstone

emulate their brave action and go now.

Colin Bullen,
 Tonbridge

Mr G provides next week's focus

JACK Woodford [KoS last week] raised an interesting issue.

There's a creeping form of totalitarianism in our society, ably assisted by the 'holier than thou' brigade who want to show the world how wonderful they are.

The issue he highlighted is a case

in point; the Black Lives Matter campaign being met with no sensible argument due to fear of disapproval, while it's OK to deride a similar White Lives Matter campaign.

No mention of the 2,500 black-on-black shootings in America. Don't they think black lives matter?

As we see almost daily, minorities have been given the tools to punish ordinary people for the slightest remark, the slightest perceived insult, assisted by people with closed minds, who ignore the facts, put their emotions on full alert and expect people to lose their homes, their money, their livelihood and so on, for a chance remark.

Louis Smith, the British gymnast, was hounded for joking about Islam and turned into a pariah.

The 'thought police' made him grovel and accused him of racism. Racism? Islam is a religion, just like the Christianity so derided by 'other' religions, but that's OK and Dave Allen [TV comic] is safe from stigmatisation.

The 'holier than thou' brigade have made a rod for our backs and given powers to minorities not given to us, the ultimate result will be the very problems they pretend to want to cure.

Phil Granger,
 West Malling

PC approach can not be reversed

THERE is no argument that the politically correct brigade have gone too far. Now, it seems, we are unable to make any sort of joke or light hearted comment about anything for fear of causing some offence - regardless if the same joke could be delivered to everyone else.

However, we should not ignore the fact why they were needed in the first place. My suspicion is those who fight against it do so on the grounds they resent not being able to make 'harmless' (their words) racist and sexist jokes. As opposed to the fact it was that very acceptance of belittling women or non-whites that was like a cancer in our society.

Like everything, we need things in moderation, but post-Brexit it would not be acceptable to return to a world where Bernard Manning-style jokes are deemed acceptable once more.

P Tyson,
 Ashford

Remember war's cost on animals

MAY I endorse Tod Bradbury letter [KoS, 30.10]. We must never forget the price animals continue to pay in war and on-going conflicts.

Mary McNulty,
 Brenchley

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to North & West

- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk



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from **Strood**

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NEW LOOK: Peugeot's new 3008 has the looks, the engines and the upmarket appeal to be a real threat to the Qashqai and its like...



Lighter and more likeable 3008

PREVIEW: Peugeot gained credit for challenging the Qashqai's crossover leadership, but the replacement 3008 could be a real threat...

ORDER books are open for Peugeot's 3008 crossover/SUV replacement and there has clearly been a re-think.

The French brand may have scored points in 2009 for launching the first credible rival to the Nissan Qashqai – founder of the crossover sector – and some nice touches such as the newcomer's split folding tailgate.

But the original 3008 was not pretty and the 'egg crate' grille overwhelmed the car.

It's successor's design is more harmonious and fashionably SUV-like, and pitched upmarket – where Peugeot wants to be in the future.

At 4.45 metres, it is 80mm longer than its predecessor, but smaller than rivals while delivering greater passenger and luggage space than before, helped by a longer wheelbase.

The 520-litre boot space (under the luggage cover) is almost 90 bigger than for the old car and can be expanded to a fully flat 1,580-litre load floor, one of the largest and most versatile capacities in the segment.

Despite the slight gain in size though, modern construction techniques have pared as much as 100 kilos in weight from the new generation 3008 – more than the 84 kilos of the average UK male.

Peugeot says this weight-saving has made the



car more agile and fuel efficient than the outgoing 3008, and it also boasts an array of technological enhancements, which we will report on once we have driven the car.

One eye-catcher though is the optional folding complementary 'mobility solutions' with the 3008: a scooter or a bike, both with electrical assistance that can be re-charged

once back aboard the car – a winner for urban users perhaps.

The 3008 will sell with the usual impressive powertrain choices, all conforming to the latest Euro 6.1 emissions legislation and including four petrol and five diesel engines, with manual and auto options.

Deliveries start in January 2017.

Facelifted 2017 Mazda3 is good company

Japanese marque's Golf challenger is now a fantastic driving companion in all situations and looks good inside and out writes **Steve Loader...**

THEY say "two's company, three's a crowd" but Mazda has just fudged that.

The sporty Japanese marque – sometimes described as Japan's Alfa Romeo, without the roadside angst – has made its Mazda3 into a brilliant driving companion and threat to the top handling family hatch rivals, the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra.

It wasn't too shabby before, having been launched just three years ago, but a facelift has smoothed tiny wrinkles.

On the face of it, literally, you may struggle to note the front-end tweaks, but on the road, the Mazda3 shines even more than before thanks to the latest gizmo from Mazda's Skyactiv technologies, which have re-thought everything about building a car.

Skyactiv has already led to lighter, stronger, leaner, more powerful and even better driving Mazdas, culminating in the latest and best ever MX-5 sports car.

But the latest bit of trick is 'G-Vectoring Control' which seems to smooth progress, literally at every turn; the car's fluidity – aided and



abetted by responsive steering and a slick gearchange – makes it a real driver's favourite.

How the vectoring control does it is beyond me, as the simple eyes and ears of the average consumer, so the best thing to do is just enjoy it.

Not that the Mazda3 is an out and out driver's car; it has simply become

better all-round, including on the motorway where extra sound deadening has cut engine and road intrusion and boosted refinement.

One facelift feature I do dislike is the arrival of an electric parking brake. While it works more logically than most, I miss the simple certainty of pulling on and releasing



a handle, yet recognise that a whole motoring generation is out there to whom this an anachronism.

There's also been some tinkering with the switches and control layout, but it is pretty much as before: logically arranged with a smart tablet-style touchscreen jutting up in the centre of the dashboard.

Mazda3 2.0 120ps 5-dr Sport Nav

Price:	from £20,645
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf

The cabin feels roomy and glassy and though the rakish roofline steals some headroom, this is a decent five-seater, while boot and ultimate load space – with rear seats folded – is one of the best at 364 and 1,263 litres respectively, though beaten by the VW Golf (380/1,270) and Peugeot 308 (470/1,309).

I tested the 120PS (119bhp) 2.0-litre petrol unit, offering lively all-round performance (0-62mph in 8.9 seconds) anyone would be happy with plus an official 55.4mpg combined consumption.

You can better this with the 150PS 2.2 diesel (8.1 and 68.9mpg respectively) but that will cost you well over £2,000 extra.

Mazda3 prices start at £17,095 for the five-door hatch, but there is also a silky-looking 4-dr fastback from £17,395, targeting 'newbie' compact exec saloons like the Audi A3.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the 2017 Mazda3: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 65.7 (4.3). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 135 - 99.

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4x4s

A buyer's guide



FUNKY CHUNKY: the Skoda Yeti shows its 4x4 paces, while the Lexus NX hybrid highlights the sharp-suited style of the modern all-wheel drive car

Best be prepared for winter - go 4x4

EVEN the most optimistic weather forecasts for this winter, say it will be much colder in the South of England.

There's also the sense that we are due a snowy and icy chiller after several mild winters, while some experts say it could be the coldest for a century.

So it's no wonder that the traditional four-wheel drive vehicle buying season looms larger than usual, also being boosted by the current vogue for the 'funky chunky' or sports utility vehicle (SUV) and crossover look. The type also offers great flexibility, which has helped cannibalise sales of the compara-

tively dull-looking 'one-box' style of the multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) or people carrier; with the option of up to seven seats on some 4x4s/SUVs, there's a growing sense of "anything you can do, I can do better".

The 4x4/SUV has also got greener, with low emission conventional models as well as new generation hybrids, which work especially well on cars of this scale as they are better able to absorb the extra bulk and weight of having two powertrains aboard.

■ **Read our special section to find out more about 4x4s and SUVs: which ones may suit you and how to get the best out of them.**



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Range fuel consumption (excluding Outlander PHEV) in mpg (l/100km): Urban 26.9 - 57.6 (10.5 - 4.9), Extra Urban 32.8 - 72.4 (8.6 - 3.9), Combined 30.4 - 65.7 (9.3 - 4.3). CO₂ emission figures range from 245-99 g/km.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Yeti range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 37.7 (7.5) to 54.3 (5.2); Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6) to 70.6 (4.0); Combined 44.8 (6.3) to 64.2 (4.4). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA Yeti range are 147 to 115 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Do I need a full on 4x4...?

GOING 4x4 is a no-brainer if you work on a farm, visit construction sites, or live in a rural area where mud, ice and snow can bog you down.

Some would-be buyers also need a 4x4 for towing; they can pull greater weights and all-wheel drive is a major reassurance.

But they are not a cheap option if you rarely need the full 4x4 potential, which is why smaller and less expensive SUVs (sports utility vehicles) or 4x4 estates have evolved.

These deliver all the image and often just as much space as a top grade 4x4, but are more eco-

nomical, being lighter and usually equipped with an all-wheel drive system that mostly runs in front-wheel drive, either by manual selection or automatic function – the latter diverts more power and grip to the rear wheels if sensors decide help is needed.

Then you must decide on the powertrain; diesel is preferred as it gives good low down power when the going gets tough. It's also better for fuel and CO2 emissions, but diesels usually cost more upfront than petrol models, so you need to cover more miles to recoup the extra out-

lay via fuel savings.

Don't forget hybrid options though, which keep emissions low and, harnessing both powertrains, can deliver extra power when needed.

How many seats? Some models offer five or seven; go for the latter if you can afford it as there will always be a time when you need those extra seats, and these cars tend to depreciate less due to greater secondhand demand.

Cars designed to hold up to seven, are almost certain to have more load space too, but they may be bulkier than you need; for many people, the attraction of SUVs is getting the 4x4 look without having to worry about accessing tight parking spaces down at the supermarket.



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Customer deposit	£15,450.00	Representative	4.4% APR*

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RX 450h prices start from £48,495. Model shown is RX 450h Luxury £51,495, excludes optional metallic paint at £645.

*4.4% APR Representative, £4,500 Finance Deposit Allowance, 42 months only on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. RX new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 3 October 2016 and 14 December 2016, registered and financed by 31 March 2017 through Lexus Financial Services. Participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. 8,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charge applies over contracted miles, 14 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status, over 18s. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience. RX 450h Luxury fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 51.4 mpg (5.5 l/100km), extra-urban 51.4 mpg (5.5 l/100km), combined 51.4 mpg (5.5 l/100km), 127 g/km CO₂

Top 4x4 driving trips



NOT INVINCIBLE: Whether driving a 4x4 SUV like the Mitsubishi ASX or a highly capable all-wheel drive car like the Skoda Octavia Scout, you must still take care in tricky conditions

DON'T ever think a 4x4 makes you invincible. Yes, extra driving wheels and weight equals more traction when conventional cars are losing grip, but a 4x4 can still skid unless you treat treacherous conditions with respect.

What's more, an off-roader's extra bulk can cause things to happen quickly if you overcook things.

Our top tips for when things get tricky:

- Dip headlights - snowflakes or driving rain simply reflect light back at you.
- Watch your speed – things happen fast on slippery surfaces. Keep a stopping distance equivalent to what is visible and clear ahead of you and don't 'tailgate' the vehicle in front. As a yardstick, stopping distances are 10 times longer in snow and ice.
- Gently does it – soft use of the accelerator, brakes, clutch and steering prevents loss of control. Avoid wheel spin when pulling away by selecting 2nd gear and easing in the clutch.
- If the car has a specific mode for the driving conditions, select it – the onboard computer thinks and reacts faster than you.
- Right gear – be in the best cog to start climbing rather than risk loss of control with a hurried change half way, and reduce the skid risk by selecting a lower gear on descent. 1st gear in the lowest set of ratios, if fitted, gives best control in tricky conditions. With an auto 'box without manual override, there should be a 'low' drive



or 'terrain control' option for snow and ice.

● 'Think high' on the flat - lower gears work best on gradients, but higher is best on level ground: a lower gear increases the car's torque or pulling power and, therefore, the chance of a skid from clumsiness on the accelerator.

● Clean feet - knock off snow, ice or mud from boots/shoes in case they slip on the controls.

● Clear before you go - remove snow and ice from the mirrors and windows for maximum visibility and clear the bodywork and roof too to avoid snow sliding onto the windscreen.

● Enough fuel? - never set out in bad weather without adequate fuel. If forced to halt, you may need the spare fuel to keep the car heated until conditions improve or help arrives. Pack some drinks and provisions before leaving too.

● Snow chains – if driving to the Alps, you must pack them or risk a fine from police, and check the vehicle's manual beforehand to determine which wheels you need to fit them on. Don't ever think a 4x4 can do without them if the going gets tough.

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JUKE RANGE: URBAN 29.7-64.2MPG (9.5-4.4L/100KM); EXTRA URBAN 46.3-74.3MPG (6.1-3.8L/100KM); COMBINED 38.7-70.6MPG (7.3-4.0L/100KM); CO2 EMISSIONS 172-104G/KM.
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Breakwater Brewery Ltd, Breakwater Brewery Tap Room, St. Martin's Yard, Lorne Road, Dover CT16 2AA has applied to Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ for the Grant of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

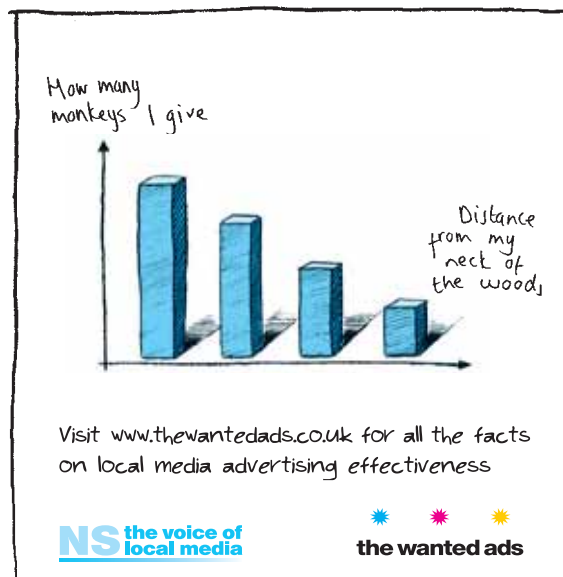
A copy of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Dover District Council offices, address above.

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Any representations in respect of the application should be made in writing to the Licensing Department, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ by 1st December 2016.

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Euro tournament excitement builds

Medway Park will host international handball next weekend

Handball

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MEDWAY Park has been chosen as the host venue as an international women's handball tournament rolls into the UK for the first time.

The women's European Handball Federation Challenge Cup comes to the UK when London Olympia take on Switzerland's LK Zug at the Gillingham venue next Saturday and Sunday.

Large crowds flocked to Medway Park in 2015 when it hosted the men's under 21 world championships qualifiers, and spectators are promised an action-packed weekend of live sport once again.

Diaraye Diallo, chairman of Olympia Handball Club, said: "We are honoured to make British handball history by hosting the prestigious European Handball Federation Challenge Cup for the first time in the UK."

"For our women's team, this is a fourth qualification in as many years for a European competition - twice for the EHF Cup and twice for the Challenge Cup."

"To us, these events are an opportunity to further English handball and we are proud to build on this legacy."

"We drew LK Zug of Switzerland for the third round, a team with solid experience in the European competitions."

"We will have two tough games but ones we very much look forward to."

Medway Park will then welcome more international athletes on the following Tuesday, November 22, when England's table tennis team



VENUE: Medway Park in Gillingham is hoping to attract big crowds next weekend to cheer on the international tournament

take on Slovenia in the European Women's Team Championships qualification match - the first time Medway will host an international table tennis competition.

Medway council's portfolio holder for community services, Howard Doe, added: "It is a great honour for Medway Park to have been chosen to

host the first ever Challenge Cup match in the United Kingdom and we are also delighted to hold our first international table tennis fixture."

"Both sports offer fast-paced action and I hope the people of Medway will take up the opportunity of watching international athletes in action right on their doorstep."

FA Cup dangles Football League side carrots

Football

THE prospect of a tie with established Football League clubs has been dangled in front of Kent's three remaining representatives in the FA Cup.

Gillingham, Dover and Maidstone all face first round replays following draws last weekend against Brackley Town, Cambridge and Rochdale respectively.

Justin Edinburgh's struggling Gills will be rewarded with a trip to Blackpool if they overcome Brackley, while a win for Dover will grant them a home fixture against either Coventry City or Morecambe.

Both county side's replays were this week selected for coverage by BT Sport in money-spinning deals.



DESTINATION: Wembley Stadium

The FA live broadcast fee is £33,750 per club, while winners of the tie will receive an additional £18,000 from the competition's prize fund.

Gillingham's replay kicks off at 7.45pm on Wednesday, with Dover's taking place 24 hours later.

Elsewhere, Maidstone, who were cruelly denied victory at the Gallagher Stadium last Sunday with a last gasp equaliser, will face a trip to Carlisle if they see off Rochdale.

All second round ties will take place over the weekend of December 3-4.

It comes after the Gills ended a wretched run of form in the week with victory over a West Bromwich Albion under 21 side in the Checkrade Trophy, and boss Edinburgh singled out former Arsenal prodigy Jay Emmanuel-Thomas' progress since joining in the summer.

The forward has recently been deployed on the right of a front three to good effect.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Race season draws to close at Brands Hatch

A LE Mans-style night racing event comes to Brands Hatch this weekend as the season draws to a close.

The unique Britcar Into the Night event is back in the county for the first time since 2013, and features two night races over the weekend.

Saturday's 50-minute opening race is scheduled to begin in the dark at 5.35pm, and the season will climax with a three-hour endurance special that, like the famous Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, will begin during daylight at 3.25pm on Sunday afternoon, and end in complete darkness.

A wide variety of saloon and GT cars will compete for a final chance of 2016 glory in the Britcar races, and the entry list includes Aston Martin, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus and Porsche supercars, while highly-modified Alfa Romeo, BMW, MINI, Seat and VW saloons will also join the grid.

Visitors will be able to watch them at speed with just headlights guiding them around the 1.2-mile Indy circuit.



UNIQUE: Night racing



REVAMP: Stonebridge Road improvement work progressing well

Seats installed as work gathers pace on stand

WORK on developing a new £5m main stand at the home of Ebbsfleet United has accelerated as the first seats were installed this week.

The steel superstructure at Stonebridge Road was completed at the end of last month and occupies the full length of the ground, with roof insulation also being put in.

Once complete, the stand will host a range of impressive new facilities

including a state-of-the-art match-day hospitality lounge.

Ebbsfleet completed the purchase of the freehold title of Stonebridge Road from Gravesend council over the summer, meaning the land now belongs to the club, which has been left debt free due to commitments made by chairman Dr Abdulla Al-Humaidi since Kuwaiti European Holdings took over in 2013.

Coles makes Bangladesh switch

MATT Coles says he has moved to the Bangladesh Premier League to develop his T20 skills and hopes to take that improvement into the new year for Kent.

The 26-year-old all-rounder agreed to join Dhaka Dynamites this week, where he will team up with the likes of former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, ex-England all-rounder Ravi Bopara

and West Indies stars Dwayne Bravo and Andre Russell.

"I'm delighted to have the chance to join Dhaka Dynamites," he said.

"It will be a good opportunity to experience different conditions and work on my T20 skills ahead of the 2017 season."

The seven-team tournament runs until early December with fixtures in Mirpur and Chittagong.

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